Crime – 1914.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Advertiser 6-20-14

BUYING NEGROES OUT OF JAIL.

Prattville, Ala., June 18, 1914.

Editor The Advertiser:

In The Montgomery Advertiser June 17th under the caption and query, "Are We Encouraging Crime?" the negro preacher from Edgefield, S. C., expresses the sentiments of the older negroes in our community, and our negroes are nothing extra good.

The "Practice of buying lawbreakers out of crime" often hits his famly and his landlord hard.

When a man breaks the law he should pay the penalty. It will make him a better man if stopped in time.

If he is "bought out" his wife and children have to help work out his fine. If they fail to get some one to buy the law breaker out of jail they are liable to forfeit his support in the future. They would be better off if the husband was in jail, beyond their reach so they could use their earnings to support themselves instead of using their labor to pay for his rascality. They feel and know this to be a fact, but are helpless.

The landlord knows he would be better off with certain tenants in jail. But he knows if he does not buy the law breaker out, some other man will pay the "fine and cost in the case" and move all the family away and the crop may be lost. His family and landlord are thus forced to back up a constant law breaker.

The wage hand or tenant realizes when he has the advantage and realizes on his advantage.

This practice uses his family's labor and his landlord's money and they suffer instead of the criminal, who thinks then he has a license to break every commandment in the decalogue, and he shatters all precedents in desecrating the old seventh day and breaking the seventh commandment.

W. A. WADSWORTH.

THE THEORISTS IN CHARGE.

Advertiser 12-13-14

In one of the New England States, the prison authorities have abolished the word "convict." This harsh word jars upon the seisibilities of the convicts—beg pardon, unfortunates. In New York the new warden of Sing Sing prison, Thomas M. Osborne, has put the interior government of the prison in the hands of the inmates. A governing body, chosen by the prisoners among themselves, will regulate the government, reward and punishment of tha convicts. In a few days an entire New York comic opera company will go to Sing Sing to present the popular musical success, "A Broadway First Night," to the prisoners. The fare of the prisoners have been materially improved, and their comfort has been looked after in other ways.

The convicts are entitled to good, sufficient and sustaining food, and they are entitled to such comforts as can be established in prison, but it would appear that some of our prison authorities are allowing their hearts to run away with their heads. We cannot understand how the man who was a criminal outside the prison walls, and who made criminal use of his liberty, can become immediately qualified to govern himself and others as soon as he is put inside of a prison. We have no patience with the maudlin sentimentality, which would abolish the word convict. It designates a man who has been convicted of crime. It is an ugly word, but it applies to a man who has earned the unpleasant distinction. We are out of sympathy with the present sentiment, which would make prison life delightful and attractive.

The convict has certain undeniable rights. So has society. We are opposed to subordinating the welfare of society to the welfare of the convict. Nor do we fancy the spectacle of the tax payer increasing his labor and his cares to support in idleness a self-governing convict, able to enjoy the privileges of leisure, in the absence of any necessity for him not only to help anybody, but for him not to support himself.

A SIGN OF REFORM.

Dr. James T. Fowler, physician of the State Tuberculosis Hospital, near Wetumpka, has published in neat pamphlet form, illustrated, the valuable report of the operation of that institution. Physicians and the public at large cannot fail to be interested in the contents.

This hospital was built in the first year of the administration of Governor O'Neal, and under the immediate direction of Dr. Fowler, who was Physician Inspector of the Convict Bureau at that time. It is constructed on an original plan, which is presented by pictures in the pamphlet, and explained in detail by the text. Every requirement of the most advanced tuberculosis hospital, its scientific management, arrangement and convenience is found here. The Advertiser is informed that the three years' experiment with the institution has proven its comparative value over pre-existing conditions.

The experiment of the State, established in its Tuberculosis Hospital, as a feature of its penitentiary reform management, is a valuable augury. It is an inspiration of certain effect in a wide field. It is practical common sense, needed in season of investigation by the public mind of the question of wise management of the penitentiary.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Advertiser 11-3-14

OUR CONVICT SYSTEM.

Editor The Advertiser:

The report of the State examiner, published in The Advertiser of Saturday last, gives the net profit of the State Convict Department, for the fiscal year just closed, as $505,372; the same report gives the average net profit for the fiscal years from October 1, 1910, to September 30, 1914, as $370,325.

Taking the figures at their face value, is it not pertinent to inquire whether this is a sufficient amount to justify the continuance in this State of a system which has only the dollar argument for its support? Would it not reflect credit upon the enlightened and Christian citizenship of the State to sacrifice, in the name of civilization and humanity, this blood money "profit," and thereby demonstrate to the world that Alabama can afford to march abreast of her sister States who have decided that there is no extenuation of a system which sells a prisoner into slavery; that she, too, can dispense with a plan which, for a consideration, turns him over to a lessee who frequently uses him as a beast of burden, and who, as shown by records on file at the capitol, sometimes treats him with a brutality that would shock the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Is this statement the exaggeration of a sentimentalist? Surely the State has not forgotten the report of the committee appointed Governor in 1913 to investigate conditions at the Huxford-Orvin Naval Stores Company, near Atmore. This report, be it remembered, followed soon after a report by an inspector of the Convict Department exonerating the lessee of the charges preferred. Let us hear again the concluding paragraph of that report, confirming so powerfully the argument of those who prate of sentimentalism and who do not feel that silver cuspidors and silk underwear should be provided for criminals:

"Taking into consideration the examination of th persons of the convicts, in connection with their testi mony, after making due allowance, your committe is of the opinion that, in many instances the whipings or beatings were uncalled for as well as brutal, and in their testimony, through fear, the convicts have withheld some facts which would show greater cruelty rather than have they exaggerated the brutality that existed at this camp."

In connection with this, hear the words of the committee in another paragraph of the report:

"A number of the convicts were reluctant in testifying, owing to extreme fear of punishment, and it is quite certain they did not tell all they knew. A general air of cowardice, fear, cringing and intimation was evidenced in nearly all of the prisoners. The bodies of most of the convicts were examined and signs of having been whipped were plainly visible on nearly all. The bodies of several of the men showed signs of brutal and excessive punishment, evidenced by open sores and numerous scars."

This is indeed a "sentimental" report on file there at the capitol from which future generations will learn how, in the white light of the twentieth century, Alabama took care of those whom she had deprived of their liberty, and who had the unquestionable right to expect the treatment which civilization demands for those whose bodies and souls are entrusted, by authority of law, into the custody of a great State. The negrophobe is hushed into silence as to this, for both races enjoyed the humanitarian and refining influences provided at the Huxford-Orvin camp.

The "unsentimental" will tell us that this is only an isolated instance. We reply that, so far as we know, this is the only thorough, fearless investigation made in Alabama in the past several years. If other instances are needed, a trip to the State hospital where are kept the maimed, the broken and the diseased, after they have come from the atmosphere of the silver cuspidors, would be interesting.

For another instance, in a different section of the State, the facts of which are shown by records in the Convict Bureau of this State, consider the following: George Adams was convicted of larceny in Jefferson county on March 20, 1909, he was given a sentence of one year, and 154 days additional for costs; his term expired on August 21, 1910. Now, bearing in mind these dates, let the "unsentimental" critic go to the records of the Banner Mine explosion in the capitol; there he will find that George Adams was killed in that explosion because he was working in that mine as a convict when the explosion occurred in the spring of 1911, several months after he was entitled to his freedom. Just a trivial "oversight" of the court records, by both the authorities at the mine and the inspectors of the Convict Bureau, which placed in his grave a man who, but for the oversight would have been a free man long prior to the explosion!

About a year ago, a convict, a white man, who had just been released from the hospital, asked the Governor to provide him with a cork leg to take the place of the leg that had been blown off in the mines, while he was helpless to protect himself and was compelled to depend upon the protection given by the State which had taken his liberty from him. It

DALLAS AS A CRIME CENTER—SOME REASONS WHY.

The Dallas Express 12-19-14

Below we reproduce an article from the Dallas News of Thursday. It says:

"Within the last two weeks or so violent crimes have been rather more numerous than is usual even at this season. Robberies, assaults and burglaries have become rather common. They are committed, in all likelihood, by professiosal criminals, who come South always at this season, and who are probably attracted to Dallas largely by the insufficiency of our police and detective forces. The number of policemen in Dallas is inadequate; it has not increased as rapidly as has the city's growth in poppulation, with the result that Dallas is not as well patroled now as it was five or six years ago. The News is pleased to note that the night patrol force has been increased by the addition of fifteen men, in a vigorous effort to stop the burglaries and robberies by which so many lives are endangered. If other additions are needed or other means required they should be resorted to at once, and the people of Dallas will heartily approve whatever expenditure is necessary to hunt down and bring the criminals to justice.

(The News has called attention to crime in Dallas and to the scarcity of the police. This is correct another element enters into the catching of criminals. That element is for officers to treat the law abiding element in a kindly and humane manner. A man who is going on about his business, bothering no one, and who is roughly accosted and perhaps threatened by an officer, is in no frame of mind to give that officer gratuitous information about a black leg or foot pad. The officer who finds that a crime has been committed and who goes into the neighborhood hunting for a "Nigger'—hoping that the real criminal is a Negro, and giving vent to those sentiments, is hardly the man to receive much assistance in catching the real criminal from colored folks. The officers can greatly reduce crime in Dallas if they will pay some attention to these suggestions—at least they will receive more assistance from law-abiding persoss who perhaps may know the lawbreakers. As a final suggestion, it is the opinion of the Dallas Express, that the Police Commissioner and the city officials generally, should appoint a number of colored men on the police force and in the detective department. Unquetsionably they would render a great service in favor of law and order. Houston, Austin, San Antonio, Galveston, Memphis, Little Rock, New Orleans and in fact almost every city in the coutnry having a large Negro population have added to their force of officers, brave and competent Negroes, who without exception have rendered signal service in the blotting it of crime by colored criminals in articular, and all criminals in a gen-ral way. What we all want to see the end of the crimson record

as not long after this that a white boy, in his twenties, applied to the writer for help. He was just out of the State hospital where he had been treated for a terribly mutilated hand, injured by the explosion of a charge of dynamite which he said he and another convict were required to drill out after a failed shot. He called the name of the man spoken of above as applying to the Governor, and said that he was his partner when the leg was blown from the man's body. He was only applying for aid and begged that no mention be made of his name as he was out merely on parole. Whether or not all of the story was true, the hand spoke for itself, for it was still in bandages.

Perhaps these are isolated instances, but they represent different times and places and some of them are matters of record. If these have become known to us, is it a wide stretch of the imagination that probably there have been dozens of others. If there have not been others, what does the array of cripples at the Wetumpka Hospital mean?

Doubtless there are camps where the convicts are treated humanely. Our contention is that a system, which is capable of such fearful abuse as the above instances indicate, cannot be tolerated by a God-fearing people because, forsooth, it carries a "net profit" in dollars.

There is a record that the great Galilean said, "I was sick and in prison and ye minister unto me"; immediately after this, he added, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me." After his superb doctrine has been before the eyes of the world for two thousand years, it would seem that it would no longer be necessary to argue that a Christian people cannot limit its sympathies and its help to those across the seas, cannot remain indifferent in the presence of a system which, even in isolated instances, permits the abuses and atrocities which are a matter of record in our great State.

CITIZEN.

(All of this sounds bad enough, albeit no new fact is mentioned. But what other system would "Citizen" substitute for the present system of handling convicts? The abuses referred to were perpetrated by State convict managers. Would "Citizen" have the State relinquish its control over convicts? Would not State-employed men work our convicts under any other system, just as is now done? What assurance has "Citizen" that convicts would be better treated under some other system?

Working convicts on the roads, for instance, would be as "brutal" and profitable as working them on private farms or in lumber camps. We do know that practically every convict in the State who is on a farm or in a lumber camp, aspires to be transferred to the coal mines, where the task system prevails, and where every industrious convict may easily earn over-time money to send to his family.

Our convicts have just earned a net profit of over a half million dollars. Would "Citizen" make the convict an idler, a "gentleman of leisure" and prevent his earning a cent? Are the tax payers of Alabama so eager to put convicts in the lap of luxury that they are willing to go into their pockets for a half million dollars a year to meet the deficit incident upon the rescue of our criminal element from a stern and hard life?—Editor Advertiser.)

THE TAX-PAYER AND THE CONVICT

During the administration of Governor Jelks, the old Alabama lease system of working the convicts was abolished. Governor Jelks substituted a system which took the convicts from under the control of the guards, foremen and wardens employed by the leasing company and put them under control of State officials and employes, who were answerable only to the State for the treatment of the convicts. The labor of "the State controlled and State directed and State fed convicts" was then sold to the mining companies.

The change was made not for the purpose of making money; the old system had been a fairly good revenue producer. It was made to secure better and more humane treatment. The system is undoubtedly the best that the State has ever had until this time. It is incumbent upon the advocates of a new change to show first that their proposed plan will assure the convict easier and more humane treatment. These same advocates are reminded that no matter what the change is, the guards, wardens and foremen will be selected by the State, in the manner that they are now selected and that perhaps the same men will be over the convicts as are over them now.

We would draw attention to an interesting and valuable communication from Examiner of Public Accounts, John T. Gorman, which is published in another column. The figures he gives throw an interesting light on this question. Before they are taken up it is to be remembered that even with the funds of the convict department, the net receipts amounting to $316,583.43, the State treasury showed a deficit for the year of $436,000, as stated in the report of Auditor Smith. If the net receipts from the convict department—this $316,583.43—are taken away, the deficit in the treasury would be over three-quarters of a million dollars.

Nor is that all—the maintenance of the convicts would not be paid out of their earnings, for there would be no earnings. The tax payer would have to put up for the support of the convicts who are now supporting themselves. The total expenses of the department as shown by Mr. Gorman amounts annually to $945,902.75. In passing, we may add that to the growing deficit, thus making it more than two million dollars a year.

What does the tax payer think about that? There is just one other appeal that demands attention here, that is the specious declaration, "The State has no right to make money out of the convicts." The answer to that is, "The State is not making money out of the convicts." When we add to the cost of maintenance of the convicts, the salaries of the judges, the cost bills and the feed bills, the supposed surplus from the convict hire fund is wiped out entirely. The State may or may not have the right to make money out of convicts, but that question is not up for discussion, because the State is not doing it.

As a substitute for that battle cry of the advocates of change, let us suggest, "The convict and law breaker has no right to make the tax payer support him in idleness and luxury."

Open Gambling Conducted Under the Very Eyes of Police Authorities, Who Seem Helpless to Apprehend the Offenders.

Conditions among the weak-minded Negroes who need the protection of the law to keep them from falling into evil ways, are as bad at this time as they were in the days of H. Gill's administration before his recall. Open gambling is running. The sale of intoxicating liquors goes merrily on in the so-called clubs and the police seem to be helpless. Each night the Negroes so inclined congregate at their favorite haunts and indulge in their hilarious past-time "shootin' de dice." There is no fear of the law and feeble efforts to catch them are laughed to scorn. A wide-awake "look-out and a buzz" makes Chief Griffith's hired men a secondary consideration. Hundreds of dollars change hands each night and the results are advertised about the streets with abandonment. When H. C. Gill was supplicating for votes before the past election he asked all citizens to give him "a chance to make good." He acknowledged his previous mistakes and said he had heeded the alluring voices of a class and had learned a lesson. He had reformed? "Give me an opportunity and I will enforce the law; I will see that no citizen can accuse me of neglecting my duty. It is for the sake of my children," was his plea. The better class of our people believed him and gave him their support. The "crap-shooter" feared he would keep his word and voted against him. Fortunately (or unfortunately?) he was elected and from appearances he has fooled both. The so-called clubs were put out of commission by Mayor Cotterill. He investigated and declared them a public nuisance; under Gill they sprang into life and at this time are eating into the moral life of our people with all the vileness of their calling. The better class of people has never asked for more than a square deal; their only complaint has been against the unequal chance ... protection of moral life in the community. If the temptation of vice is tolerated by the law and they are placed outside the pale of its protection, how can they be expected to maintain the status of good citizenship? "We can't catch them," is a poor excuse. The statement of some of our sophisticated citizens who uphold the lawlessness and have plead to Chief Griffith "to let the poor colored man alone, he has no other place to go," know that they are uttering a base falsehood and they should be given small consideration. It is the wives and children of our people who should have the protection of the law that governs others. They are the ones that suffer through the acts of weak-minded husbands and fathers, who spend their money and idle away time in these protected haunts of degradation. It is up to Hiram Gill to keep his promises and ENFORCE THE LAW!

JOHN ...RSON STABBED TO DEATH IN A CRAP GAME.

Houston, Texas, Aug. 19.—John Anderson, while engaged in a crap game Saturday night, was stabbed to death. Two men were arrested, charged with the crime. Dr. E. H. Lee is expecting to visit in North Carolina and Washington, D. C. Mr. G. Tucker of Stafford visited in Houston last week. Mrs. J. James is visiting friends in the oil city this week. Mrs. Lizzie Keys, after spending a few weeks in the city, returned to her home, at Brenham. A colored man by the name of Thomas Smith died on Southern Pacific train between Houston and San Antonio **Sunday night.**

NEGRO WILL BE TAKEN TO AUTAUGA FOR TRIAL

Brought Here from Selma Following Arrest for Assault to Murder.

Parson Shield, a negro, who was brought to Montgomery from Selma Saturday night and held here charged with assault to murder for striking and dangerously wounding George Barnes, a mill superintendent near Manack, will be carried to Autauga

...ith a ... to ...a Saturday. It will recover.

Crime — 1914

WORKING THE CONVICTS ON THE ROAD.

There is undeniably a strong public sentiment in Alabama for working all convicts on the road. A few, but not many, of its advocates recognize the practical and financial obstacles in the working of this reform, but that it would improve the condition of the convict is still open for discussion. The greater number of the advocates of the change have never looked behind the promising fact that convicts so employed would vastly improve the highways of the State.

But is that the best and cheapest way to get good roads? We can afford to survey the field and discuss the question without prejudice or passion. Because a man believes that the best thing to do is to put the convicts on the road does not argue that he is foolish or reckless. On the other hand, because a man believes that it would be costly and unwise to make the change does not make him a tight wad who may have some special interest in the present system. Why not turn the question up and down and look at it from every viewpoint. First of all we should be guided by the experience of other States, and of those counties in Alabama which have tried the experiment, provided the experimnt has been in operation long enough for its effect to be recorded. It is difficult to do this because the system has not been in operation long enough in the South for its advocates and its opponents to view it fairly and justly.

To begin with, the physical well being of a convict would not be improved if he were transferred from his present environment in a State operated mine, to the more difficult work on the roads. A great many good people will object to this assertion; they have been told the contrary so often that they accept it as the undisputed truth. These are people who do not know the condition under which the convicts are worked in the State-supervised mines; people familiar with the living conditions at the State-worked mines will not believe that the convicts would be better working in the day time along the roads and housed in cages at night, than they are now, working an easy shift of eight hours a day and housed in comfortable and clean barracks during the other sixteen hours of the day. Nor should we lose sight of the fact that the State, at those mines, does not lease its convicts; the State hires out the labor of the convict, and its agents supervise, guard, feed and care for them. The convicts are never out of charge of the State. If they were moved to the roads, the same system would be operated and most of the men now in charge of them would be in charge of them on the roads.

It is argued that the State has no right to make money out of the convicts; that being true, the State has no right to make the equivalent of money out of them, and good roads are the equivalent of money.

The system of employing convicts on the roads has been in operation in Georgia for two years; it is neither a pronounced failure nor a pronounced success. It has certainly improved the roads of Georgia but the question comes up, could not the result have been attained at less cost and with less effort?

In a communication to The Southern Good Roads the well known good roads magazine, Governor John M. Slaton of Georgia deals in a general way with convict labor on the road, in a statement that would be more valuable were it more definite. He says:

> The use of convicts is not compulsory with the counties. They are furnished free of charge by the State, but they must be maintained by the counties employing them. Accordingly, a few of our counties, not feeling in a position to undertake the burden of maintaining convicts, are still endeavoring to keep up their roads under the old system with statute and hired labor, and have never availed themselves of the opportunity of obtaining from the prison commission their pro rata share of convicts. Others have taken convicts only to lease them to more prosperous counties.
>
> In a large number of our counties, however, the good roads movement has grown so strong that they are now working all of the felony convicts which they can secure from the State in addition to their own misdemeanor convicts. Some of them would be glad to work twice as many men as they now have if they could get them.

Governor Slaton is unable to estimate the cost, annually, of the system. In speaking of the amount of money spent annually for good roads in Georgia, he says: "If we figure the money value of the convicts, the cost of their maintenance, the outlay for road machinery and the expenditures of those counties which do not use convict labor, the total would not be far from five million dollars a year." This is as near as the Governor comes to telling the cost in Georgia.

He says that there are some defects in the system of building roads by counties with convict labor. Chief of these is the lack of co-ordination of those who manage the convicts with the resultant failure to take into consideration a comprehensive system of road building for the State at large. Highway construction in Georgia is also complicated by the great variety of the soils which necessitates the employment of different materials and methods by road engineers in the northern, middle and southern sections of the State.

In Georgia, the county must maintain the convicts employed on the roads, furnish them with equipment, feed, clothe and guard them. How many counties in Alabama could afford this expense at the present time? Again, the change in the system would deprive the State of the present large revenue from the convict department, a revenue which has assisted materially in this trying time, to preserve the credit of the State. In making the change the Legislature must provide a financial substitute for the money which has been coming from the convict, and certainly, the State cannot be expected to maintain the convicts working in the counties, as some advocates of the change would have it do.

This is a question which must be approached with justice to the convict, and to the State, with sympathy for the convict, and at least an equal sympathy for the tax payer, who will pay the bill. Above all, the question must be dealt with by practical common sense.

ARBITRATION COURT PROPOSED BY SCOTT

Negro Business Men's League Would Do Away With Law Suits in Differences Among Negroes

Advertiser 4-24-14

Inaugural plans for Arbitration Courts for the settlement of differences between negroes, were laid last night by Emmett J. Scott, Secretary of the Tuskegee Institute, and Secretary of the National Negro Business League, when speaking before the closing session of the sixth annual convention of the Negro Business League of Alabama. The proposition, as offered by Scott, would practically eliminate law suits among negroes, a thing for which they spend annually $1,000,000 in Alabama.

Scott's suggestion was well received by the negro business men, and it is thought that something definite will be started by his address. He asks that the local negro business leagues of Alabama and the South take leadership in proposing the organization of these courts and thereby eliminate what he termed a sickening drain of money and economic loss. He said that in the South as much as $10,000,000 to $15,000,000 was spent by negroes in their annual settlement of petty disputes in courts.

"Such courts should have but two officers, a President and Secretary, with not more than five judges, three of whom should be regular judges and two supernumerary judges to take the place of any one of the judges temporarily absent. The settlement of disputes should not be based upon legal technicalities, but simply, solely and only upon merit and justice, without too strict a regard to legal interpretation. Criminal cases should not be handled and both parties to a dispute should be in honor bound to abide by any decision that is made.

"Here is a work that our State League can undertake as a definite constructive program. The results will more than justify the effort and the saving economically to our race in Alabama will be splendidly worth while."

At the meeting last night E. L. Attwell was re-elected President of the State organization and Birmingham was selected as the next meeting place of the league. R. L. Mabry and W. J. Echols of Birmingham were retained as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively, and Dr. W. H. Mixon of Selma, J. O. Diffay of Birmingham and H. A. Loveless of Montgomery, were elected Vice-Presidents. J. H. Phillips of Montgomery was re-elected Chairman of the Executive Committee.

A feature of the meeting last night was the address of William Benson, founder of the railroad built by negroes from Alexander City to Kowaliga, Ala. Benson declared that practically $100,000 had been spent on the fifteen miles of standard gauge road and that trains are now running on ten miles of that road.

"The Negro Newspaper," "A Business on Wheels," "Suggestions or Keeping Accounts," and "Training in Personal Service," were discussed successfully by Isaac Fisher of Tuskegee Robert Tarver of Montgomery, W. H Carter of Tuskegee Institute, and J E. McCall of Montgomery.

Negro Enforcement of Law

The Montgomery Journal 4-24-14

A Southern University Student," writing in the current number of The Southern Workman on the subject of Negro enforcement of the law, goes to the heart of a very vital subject and with frankness submits what this paper has long maintained, that in order to reduce crime among the Negro population the State must have the co-operation of Negroes in an official capacity.

"Eight millions of the colored people of the South," says the writer of the article, "still live in the country districts, sometimes in the ratio of six or seven to one white man. In a district or county beat covering twenty five or thirty square miles of thick forest, dense canebrake, and deep swamp, there is usually one lone white "constable." He undertakes to enforce the law upon four or five hundred more or less disorderly Negroes, and attend to his private business at the same time. Many small offenders among the Negroes undoubtedly escape arrest altogether, or, with the aid of others, lie hid until "the trouble blows over." This, of course, is not calculated to produce an extremely great respect for the white man's law. A half dozen Negro constables, hired at an equal expense, would probably bring every offender up for trial. They would be more familiar with the individual Negroes themselves, as well as with their haunts.

The Southern University student, then emphasizes a condition that is particularly true of the colored sec-

tion of Norfolk. He says:

"One scarcely ever sees a white policeman patroling constantly the segregated Negro portions of Southern cities. He dislikes such a "round." The colored corner saloon may bristle with crimes, but he never goes there unless he is called. Neither does this conduce to respect for the law. If the districts were patrolled by Negro policemen petty crimes could not flourish with the same ease and neglect.

A few weeks ago, the white merchants doing business in the segregated residential district known as Huntersville petitioned the Norfolk Board of Control for police protection.

In commenting upon the observations of the University Student the Petersburg Colored Virginian believes that:

"The most potent cause of race demoralization in this section is lax enforcement of the law where Negro criminals are concerned so long as only Negroes are affected. In Petersburg, for instance, a certain element of Negro boys and men openly and publicly engage in the practice of street gambling and only in rare instances, do the police or city authorities put forth any extra effort to stop it. A Negro invested with proper authority would speedily break up this demoralizing practice, or at least drive the offenders where their influence would be less likely to contaminate others.

The Colored Virginian also takes occasion to condemn the practice so much employed by Southern police departments of using unofficial Negro "spotters." It says:

"Another phase of this matter, and perhaps the most shameful and disgraceful of all, is that method adopted by the police here and elsewhere, by which certain Negro criminals are permitted a degree of immunity from punishment for the assistance they lend the police in capturing other criminals. These "unofficial police" are called "spotters" and are frequently the most dangerous of the criminal type. There is really no question but what a Negro constabulary would be effective in preventing crime and bringing criminals to justice. The moral returns from such a plan if adopted in all Southern States would by far outweigh the additional expense.

Further endorsement is given to the plan by The Southern Workman, which says editorially:

"One of the problems which both Negroes and whites in the South have to face is the prevalence in the rural districts and in certain parts of the town of a widespread spirit of lawlessness. In many cases the indictment is brought in against the white man that he is guilty of innumerable lynchings and outrages in defiance of the law, and that he frequently exercises no discriminating justice even in the very courts of law themselves. Against the Negro the charge is brought of certain brutal assaults on virtue, an alarming number of murders, and a proneness to petty thievery exercised in all possible ways and forms. The people of both races are becoming gradually more sensitive to this sweeping arraignment of their socalled "lawlessness," and would gladly welcome any remedy which might place them in a more enviable light in the eyes of the world."

The Southern Workman also approves the plan of a Negro constabulary, and thinks that such would have a highly satisfactory moral effect upon the race in the enforcement of the law. It says:

"Many think the situation would be relieved by Negro participation in the enforcement of the law; that is, by Negro service under the executive department of the state.

"The sense of order which comes to a people enforcing the law for itself is one of the boons of democratic government. This effect system of colored police would probably have upon the Negro mind. These Negro officials would, little by little, by their embodiment of the principles of law and order, organize Negro public opinion against such atrocious crimes as rape and murder, and would make the shame of a small theft become much more ensible than is the prevailing case ow."

It becomes more evident that the suppression of crime in both races is to have an important bearing upon the satisfactory solution or adjustment of the race problem, and the sooner both races begin working in co-operation to this end, the sooner will come the adjustment. A city like Norfolk, where the population is almost equally divided between white and colored, and where the races occupy so distinct and separate communities, affords a splendid opportunity for experimentation along the lines so well suggested by the Southern University Student.

CHICAGO'S JIM CROW JAIL

Chicago is the only city in the northwest that has a jail for white and one for colored, and the citizens at this coming election should not vote for a candidate without he promises to knock down the walls that divide the white and colored. We have stood this condition long enough. A prisoner is a prisoner no matter what his color. This jail must go.

THE HOLD-UP. At the Douglas Club, located at 307 3rd Ave. So., Saturday night, will be chronicled in the annals of crime in Seattle as unique. One of the gamblers, claimed that he had been robbed in the place and could see no way to recover his loss except by taking desperate steps. He secured a revolver and turned bandit, held up the house and took all the cash in sight, which consisted of the bank roll the change box. He also took the dice which he said were "loaded." After the hold-up he remained in the city and made no attempt to cover up the crime; defied the owners of the house to inform the police or prefer charges against him for the deed. He had them buffaloed and they remained silent. It was a desperate undertaking and there was not the least doubt that he in his frame of mind would have committed murder, had there been any resistance made by the victims. It was a case of "robber robbing the robbers". The robber having the best of it with his gun. Only a short time ago a cold-blooded murder was committed in one of the "so-called-clubs." One Chuck Corner, a habitue of the under-world, was shot down by an associate named Mouten. What provoked Mouten to do the deed was a misunderstanding over some small matter. The authorities had cognizance of the place being undesirable and a breeding place for vice, but neglected to do their duty until it was too late. Had they acted promptly and investigated in time, the place would have been closed, a life would not have been sacrificed, the community would not have had the expense of convicting a murder and the unfortunate man Mouten would not now be incarnated behind prison bars at Walla Walla. The same was barely averted Saturday night. It is as much the duty of an officer of th law to prevent a crime as it is to apprehend and punish a culprit after the deed has been done. Chief Griffiths has been appraised of the character of these places and has information enough to convince any ordinary man that there is something wrong with them. There is not a detective or patrolman on the force that has an ounce of sense, but what could in 24 hours put them out of business. They all know the methods used in conducting places of this kind; if not they should look for some other occupation. "We can't get evidence enough to convict them," is the myth. Look up Charles Thomas, he has got all that any man needs to be convinced, and is more than anxious to produce it, and it should turn the trick. It is worth a trial at leost. Every officer reads with pride the report of some criminal who has been tracked to distant parts of the world and returned to serve justice for some offense against the law. It does seem passing strange that an "ignorant class of Negroes" can out-wit a police department, and break the law under their noses and defy conviction. The only logical view that can be taken of the situation is that the Negro is given no consideration; he stands outside the pale of the law, or those who should enforce the law have been bribed or hoodwinked into the belief that it is best to let the Negro carry on his depredations unmolested in order to show the darkest side of his character.

DISPENSARY'S BIG BUSINESS.

Special to The Advertiser.

HUNTSVILLE, ALA., Dec. 26.—The city dispensary has done a booming business during the last few days. The record of the week-end has not broken on Christmas eve but the four days preceding Christmas make a record that has never been equalled by any other four consecutive days. In round figures, $7,250 was taken in by the dispensary from Saturday to Wednesday night. The dispensary is regarded as one of the best barometers of business anywhere and the sales this season certainly indicate that there is plenty of money in the country.

Washington Star

July 1914

COLORED LAWYERS CALLED.

Collins and Plummer Before Wright Impeachment Committee.

John E. Collins, colored, [illegible] appeared again today before the Wright impeachment committee of the House to give further testimony in the Patterson case, which has been the subject of the investigation for the past two days. Henry V. Plummer, colored, was another witness, he having assisted Collins in the defense of Patterson, who was sentenced to four years by Judge Wright.

No new features of the case were developed today, although Plummer corroborated Collins' statement of yesterday that James M. Proctor, then United States district attorney, was not present all the time during the trial of Patterson and was not competent to prepare a bill of exceptions in the case for appeal. Mr. Proctor has testified that he was there during the entire trial.

FOR STEALING 50 CENTS NEGRO GETS FIFTY YEARS

Mobile, Ala., July 2.—Fifty years for stealing 50 cents. That is the sentence that a Hale county jury imposed on Frank Williams, a negro, who in 1904 robbed another negro of a half of a dollar. After serving more than twenty years of the fifty-year sentence, Williams has been paroled by Governor O'Neal, the governor extending clemency to the negro last night.

WASHERWOMAN FINED.

Josephine Phillips, a negro washerwoman, was fined $75 and costs in Police Court Tuesday afternoon on the charge of stealing a gold ring from the home where she was employed. The ring was valued at about $4.

Crime - 1914.

Legislator Urges Prison Reform for Alabama

advertiser 8-23-14

By JNO. W. GREEN,
Member of the House from Dallas Co.

There is a great deal being said by the different members elect of the Legislature and also by the press of the State as to needed laws or legislation. There are a great many important subjects that ought to receive serious thought and consideration too numerous to mention in this article. I have been giving some time and study to the present prison and convict system of the State. I have investigated the subject from various view-points and believe, to use one of our railroad expressions, the whole system needs to go into the "back shops" for a general overhauling. The entire system is out of date and not in keeping with the twentieth century idea of dealing with the unfortunate, the delinquent or vicious class of society.

During the period of progression in the affairs of political life and the administration of public affairs, I am inclined to believe that no branch of the States authority has advanced less than the conditions originally planned for the punishment of criminals and of prisons and penitentiaries generally.

There are a multitude of corrections possible, and some which are seemingly necessary to better the prison conditions and put the unfortunate or the enemies from the evil accompanying the fee system and political appointments of penitentiary supervisors—to say nothing of the term of sentence being continued after a convict who made a mistake in life, has truly repented for having sinned against the peace and dignity of the State.

Condemns Fee System.

There is today a great feeling among a vast number of citizens condemning the fee system, especially as to those officers whose living is now dependent on the number of people he can get into trouble whereby a fee might be forthcoming. It has been used as an argument against placing sheriffs on a salary basis that there would be no incentive for him to perform his duties unless there was held up to him the sweet morsel of obtaining a fee by making arrests of wrongdoers. This is, in my opinion, too great an insult to the manhood and citizenship of our state to be given as the reason for not changing the fee system. As the law is now administered, these arrests are generally made by deputies who have been lead to believe that their position depends upon the number of arrests made, which will produce fees rather than consider the justice in their warrants, etc.

There is the board of the prisoner which the sheriff collects for though his victim has only been confined in his jail for a few minutes or hours—not even long enough to get to smell the peas cooking; but the sheriff collects thirty cents from the State for this man's board in jail, the minimum amount paid, per diem for feeding prisoners. There are any number of instances which could be cited against the fee bait to officers but which is hardly necessary as almost every man who employs free labor knows that labor interferences come from the fee hunter.

As to Solicitors.

I will merely state that we have never suffered from not having had competent and honorable prosecutors since the abolishment of the fee system for State Solicitors, which is to some extent analogous to the evils of fees for sheriffs and their kindred officials. It is a bad precedent for a county to have an officer thrive on crime or charges of criminal misconduct. If the State is willing to pay thirty cents per day for feeding her prisoners, why not see that they get its equivalent in wholesome food suitable so far as possible to physical condition of the person so imprisoned, and not leave open the avenue of personal gain, to some in authority, by having the quantity and quality of the food reduced? Why not give to the prisoners a dollars worth of food for every dollar expended and in this connection, I might add that if such a practice was put into operation the State might reduce the costs of feeding one-third, and then have a better quality and more nutriment than the average prisoner receives under the present management.

There is a suggestion which should be carried out in some way to better the conditions of the convicts, by removing the Board of Convict inspectors from under the influence of a political regime which takes place every four years.

Political Favoritism.

It is recognized by everyone who has given the question of handling convicts any serious thought, that it takes a specially qualified man to cope successfully with the problems which arise daily in convict camps or penitentiaries. He must be positive, just, humane and with some executive ability and should be a man of education. These qualities relate to wardens as well as inspectors and they should not be selected by a Governor because of some political support given him or some "pet" measure. I believe that a convict commission could be established greatly to improve the conditions existing by having it consist of three members and one of them to retire every two or three years which would leave two old members on the Commission at all times who would necessarily be fully acquainted with the policy and workings of the Commission and thereby eliminate the embarrassing condition of having all new men who are probably unfamiliar with convict management. This invariably works a hardship on the convicts or the State.

Then again if the wardens and other officers were appointed by the Commission and not the Governor, it would be much better as it would let the responsibility of the administration of the affairs rest on the Commission who have the actual management of the system.

Should Not Make Profit.

This would, in a measure, relieve the intense political supervision of this department would improve the general conditions, yet there are a number of other changes which would add materially to advancement. One of which is that the State should not look upon the resources and proceeds of this department as a source of revenue to the State in its general sense but satisfy itself with its maintaining its own expense and the excess proceeds should go to its own improvement—secure hygienic and moral conditions.

Another imperfect and often unjust provision in law is the length of a sentence for named or given offenses. As it is now provided there is too great a latitude in fixing the term of sentences in ordinary felony cases. For instance, it is entirely discretionary with the presiding judge whether a man shall serve a sentence of one year and one hour for assault with the intent to murder, or whether he shall serve a sentence of ten years—and under this head may be added burglary, grand larceny and other offenses of like magnitude. Why should this latitude be granted a man--the judge--to say whether you are to be imprisoned for one or ten years for an offense, the gist of which is the intent to do the particular thing for which a conviction is had? It leaves the destiny of the convict to the whim, prejudice or individual sensitiveness of this one man, when all of these offenses are of the same degree of immoral conduct. And further, the acquaintance with the convict is unknown, but the judge proceeds to impose on one a sentence of ten years and upon another for the same offense (an assault with intent) a term of one year, while so far as we know the future develops that the man who has received the maximum sentence has repented and is worthy of civil life, and the man with the minimum sentence has never reformed.

Chance to Reform.

It seems that a more just and at the same time offer to the convict an opportunity to prove himself worthy of life and liberty would be to impose a running sentence for all like offenses of one to ten years and of course every one convicted must serve his minimum sentence and on unless his conduct has been such as to cause the convict authorities to believe he has reformed--then, upon their recommendation, they having seen him and watched him for one year, and learned his faults if any, and generally acquainted himself with the convict, parole him for one, two or five years, as the law may think best upon condition that the convict shall report at given intervals his manner of living and generally his whereabouts and habits. If after this parole is granted the convict should violate any of the conditions or should commit some other offense showing the lack of the proper regard for citizenship, then the parole should be revoked and upon a second conviction should be made to serve a certain number of years above the minimum sentence. This plan would make a rule of law for the term of a sentence and remove the length of his term from judges--one of which might be good natured and generous in his views while another might impose twice the term for the identical offense because he was narrow or severe in his ideas and especially while suffering from a weakened and worm eaten constitution.

Is there no escape from prejudice? Is there no way for a man who has incurred the condemnation of society to reinstate himself by having truly repented and shown by his subsequent acts that he is fitted for social life? Must a man serve a sentence for a breach of the law beyond the exemplification of punishment in cases of crime? Is there no method of living, after conviction, to act as an example to those who are unfortunate enough to become convicts whereby a punishment might be lessened? If a man commits a crime by stealing the property of another and is sentenced to one year's imprisonment, which is the minimum sentence that can be imposed, and another man is convicted for the same offense--stealing the property of another--and is given a sentence of ten years, and the law says there is but one offense of stealing (over a certain amount of value) both of which is termed grand larceny, and the offense is the felonious taking--then why should such latitude be given an individual--the judge of a court--to impose such additional punishment to one than the other.

If the law had intended that the amount stolen should constitute the degree of punishment, it could very easily have been so written. Is a man's liberty of so little importance in this Christian and progressive era as to place in hands of one man the disposition of nine years of his life? This length of time--between the maximum and minimum sentence for grand larceny--is more than the average life of a convict, and it is absolutely within the discretion of a--one--man whether you serve one or ten years. Is the length of a man's sentence left to the judgment of a jury or to the written law? Why shouldn't the law have an expressed rule of punishment commensurate with the conduct of a convict after conviction? After the humiliation and stain of character for life has been awarded the felon and his family, and the minimum sentence has been performed in the penitentiary, the law should say that, my majesty has been vindicated and your punishment has been sufficient if your conduct has shown that you have fitted yourself for civil life. And how can a judge foresee, with all of his great wisdom and experience, or inexperience, the amount of sentence imposed.

Confinement is to some men much more of a punishment than to others. It may be truthfully said that a ten year sentence to some would mean a death sentence, while others would survive if the proper treatment was accorded. A man may disturb the peace and dignity of his State but the Constitution of the United States or of Alabama did not intend that one man should have the power to dispose of at his own discretion nine years of its citizen's liberty.

There are no degrees of grand larceny (and I merely use this offense as an illustration, for there are numerous other offenses punishable in like manner), and the men who commit this offense have trasgressed the laws of their State exactly alike, though one has stolen a horse, another a cow, another a jewel of enormous value, and another a hog. If a man works into the penitentiary by his own act, why should not he be allowed to work out of this place after the minimum sentence has been performed, by having his acts and conduct to speak for him or against him? What incentive is there for a man who has the maximum sentence staring him in the face? You might answer that there is a rule for short time which administered would let one man out in ten months and another for the same offense out in six years and eight months, a difference of nearly five years. Well, why should the judge have the power of discrimination to the extent of five years of human liberty.

If we should figure that the present rule for allowing short time were enforced in every instance and the judge of a Criminal Court should sentence each year fifty men with this optional term and is on the bench two terms, he then will have had the liberty of disposing of 2,900 years of human life.

I believe that this commission should not only be educated men but men who have made a special study of crimnology, psychology and sociology. Men with an enthusiasm for humanity rather than a set of men whose sole object is to make large financial returns from the work of this poor, unfortunate class.

The law says to the convict, "We are sending you to the penitentiary to make a better man of you and also to protect society," and unless we treat these unfortunates so as to make better men of them, we turn a worse man on society than we took from it, and when we do that we have neither benefitted the man nor given society any permanent protection, and society has the same right to protection after the man has been turned loose on it as it had when he was taken from it. It seems to me that it is time the manhood, and womanhood of Alabama should in the name of God and humanity go to work in earnest and better this out-of-date prison and convict system of our State.

Little Miss [illegible], cousin of the bride, is the flowe girl. She will wear a dainty lingeri frock and carry a gilt basket fille with yellow roses and valley lilies.

Preceding the ceremony Mrs. Ab Strauss, Jr., will sing, accompanie by Prof. Louis T. Chase, who wil also play the wedding music.

The wedding journey will includ various winter resorts in Florida, an on their return the young couple wil be at home to their friends at the De Soto Hotel, in New Orleans.

After the ceremony the bridal party and the members of the immediat family will be entertained at the Ra cine Hotel.

Negress Is Unable to Convince Police That She Stole Jewelry

7/2/14

The confesssion of Eugenia Dowdell, negro, to the theft of a ring, which later developments proved she did not steal. has furnished to the police a peculiar case for analysis. The reason for her statement that she stole the ring has not yet been made clear.

Eugenia's employers lost a ring. The police were notified and the woman was taken to police station by Detectives McCall and Watts for examination.

After a few minutes of cross examining Eugenia said "Boss, you want the whole truth don't you?" She then told a long story about the taking the ring and losing it in the sink.

Later in the evening the detectives were talking with the people who lost the ring. While he was talking with them a friend came up and presented the ring, saying that he had found it in his automobile where it had been lost when the party were out riding the night before.

The detectives returned to headquarters. Eugenia was taken before the Sergeant and asked to tell about the ring. She told the same story that she had told the detectives and insisted that it was so.

She was released by the detectives.

THE POLICEMAN WITHOUT PISTOL COMING.

Colored men who desire to see the police treat them with less club and pistol consideration will quit standing around in barber shops "cussin' 'em out at their backs," will do no good. There is a remedy, certain and sure. That remedy is the ballot. It is peaceful but all conquering. Go pay your poll tax before January 31st, next, and when election day comes vote for the white men who believe that a Negro is a human being—who believe that the whole race should not be judged by the worst of it.

The Rotary Club, an organization of 35 of the leading business and professional men of Jackson, Miss., is making an investigation of the many complaints of injustice to Negroes by petty officers. The club recommends drastic action following the investigation. The purpose of the club is to protect the Negroes of Jackson from extortion and grafting by constables, magistrates and other fee-hunting magistrates.

Boston, Mass.
TRAVELER

BLAMING IT ON THE NEGRO

IN case of doubt blame it on the Negro." This is the rule that is followed all through the South and to a great extent in the North as well. And likewise, when it isn't a case of doubt it is deemed the convenient thing to make the Negro a scapegoat whenever it can be done. The fact that a Negro who dares to bring his case into court is deemed to be "impudent" and should be "taught to keep his place" and the further fact that if he does manage to get it into court, he is likely to receive anything but fair, impartial treatment, makes it a comparatively easy matter to prove him guilty of most any wrongdoing laid at his door.

When a judge or jury, in the South, acquits a Negro, it means that the proof of his innocence is so absolutely plain and known to all that to do otherwise would be ludicrous. The Negro's only safety lies in his keeping himself above suspicion and behaving better than the whites about him, which he does in a great majority of cases. DEC 3 1914

If the absolute truth were known regarding the inception of many of the "race riots" including the one that occurred in New York this week, the Negroes would be found less culpable than they are represented.

The Business League of Eufaula, Oklahoma, recently passed strong resolutions condemning crime among their own people and calling upon the county and state officials for the protection of all colored citizens and giving to all charged with whatsoever crime a fair trial before judge and jury.

Teddy Roosevelt Randolph, Colored, Youngest Prisoner on Record Here

Advertiser 8-10-14

Teddy Roosevelt Randolph, 5 years old, and about the color of chocolate icing, has established a record. (Which is very commonplace, considering his name.)

He didn't discover a river, nor did he invade a Brazilian jungle to discover wungfaws and zufledinks. He invaded a pigeon house and later invaded the police jungle and discovered a policeman. (This is not the record he established.)

The Rooseveltian stunt that T. R. Randolph pulled off was to establish a record as the youngest person who has ever had the honor of docketing his name on the police blotter as a prisoner. (He did it Saturday night. His press agent apologizes because it did not appear yesterday.)

Teddy entered the pigeon house because he wanted a pet. (Pigeons make good pets if you are not too hungry.) He was detected in the act by Officers Barnett and King and dragged out to be introduced to Night Sergeant Leavell.

Teddy had a fearful idea of police methods and when he stood on tiptoe and espied on the sergeant's desk a long knife that had done duty in a previous darktown engagement, he began to pray. (That is, he prayed between weeps.)

"Mister is you going ter cut my head off?" wept Teddy.

"Not if you will dance for us a little," replied the sergeant.

So Teddy entertained with a cabaret act. He gave the buck dance, the Boguehomme glide and other original steps. He would not give the pigeon wing. Said he did not have it.

Teddy's mamma came after him later in the evening, much to his joy, and he was released with orders to appear in Police Court Monday.

Officers Watson aand Goocher arrested two others early Sunday morning as companions in the pigeon house raid. These were Gus and Oliver Woods, age 11 and 8, respectively.

Sins of Escaped Convict Find Him Out And He is Again Behind Bars

Advertiser 6-20-14

Eli Knighton of Cullman county, who escaped from Speigners last January and who was serving a five years sentence on a charge of burglary, made the unfortunate mistake of returning to his native heath in Cullman county, where he was well known, and as a result he is now in the Cullman county jail awaiting the arrival of a transfer agent who will take him back to the penitentiary.

Eli returned to vine clad hills of old Cullman and told the gladsome news that he was out on a parole. In view of this bold statement, his former neighbors and friends were not suspicious and accepted his statement. Eli, however, was not content to bask in the peaceful valleys of Cullman county and to while away the hours there in quiet and comfort but became boisterous and began to raise "Billy H." in his old neighborhood.

This small reign of terror created by Eli caused some of his neighbors to write to Governor O'Neal asking that his alleged parole be revoked, whereupon it was discovered that Eli was an escaped convict and that a reward of $50 was hanging heavily over his head.

State officials immediately communciated with the Sheriff of Cullman county and within a few hours Eli was placed under arrest. This is the second time that he has made his escape. He will be carefully watched in the future and the possibilities of his receiving a real "parole" are exceedingly remote.

Crime- 1914

The Way of the South!

The Topeka Plaindealer 5-22-14

Guilty or Innocent, the Blacks Must Suffer.

BREWER PARDONS THREE NEGROES IN PENITENTIARY

Jackson, Miss.—Three Negro convicts have been pardoned by Gov. Brewer, one of them being well known to the police of Jackson. Mayor Taylor joined in a petition for his pardon. The prisoners pardoned were:

"Judge" J. D. Drummond, convicted in the First district court of Hinds county for receiving stolen property, and sent up in July, 1912, for three years. Among those who requested the granting of the pardon were Mayor Taylor and Deputy Sheriff Pridgen. The pardon was granted upon the condition that the Negro observe all laws in the future. A breach off the condition will be put into full force the unserved portion of his sentence.

Henry Kearney, sent up from Panola county in March, 1911, to serve ten years for manslaughter. One of the men who served on the jury makes a most remarkable admission—that his conscience had been hurting him ever since he voted to convict the Negro, and that a majority of the jurymen did not believe him guilty, but convicted him because they thought on general principles it was best to do so, as its effect would be to "keep down the Negroes in this neighborhood."

Kid Hops, alias Mose Johnson, convicted in Coahoma county in April 1905, for manslaughter. This Negro appealed to the governor for a pardon. Gov. Brewer knew all about the case, as he was the prosecuting attorney who help to send him to prison. The Governor stated today that he thought Kearney had been sufficiently punished, especially so in view of the fact that he killed another Negro who was advancing upon him with a knife. The Negro was in for 20 years.

* * *

The pardoning of three Negro convicts from the penetentiary as is shown by the above article, because one of the jurors in one of the cases admitted that he and the majority of the jurors believed the Negro innocent, but returned a verdict of guilty because it would tend to keep the oher Negroes down and that his conscience had punished him ever since the verdict was returned. This shows how the courts in the South and how justice is meted out to the innocent, who have to suffer the same as the guilty, where there is no one to defend them. They talk about Mexico and the indignities of Huerta, but they are nothing compared with the indignities and outrages heaped upon the colored people of the United States every day by a race that is supposed to be advanced in intelligence and civilization and Christianity, and who have become in possesion of this vast wealth as a result of slave labor.

SOUTHERN PRISON SYSTEM SCORED

The Afro-American Ledger 5-16-14

At Annual Session of National Conference of Charities and Correction—Next Session In Baltimore.

Memphis, Tenn., May 15.—Charity needs of the South, its disgraceful prison system, the vice problem, economic and living conditions and the Negro were among the many topics discussed here at the annual session of the National Conference of Charities and Correction. The next session will be held in Baltimore.

J. H. DeWitt, of Nashville, made a severe arraignment of the prison system of the South, declaring that the average county jail was run in a manner disgraceful to civilization and that the moral perceptions of inmates were dulled by the treatment received. He advocated the abolition of the convict lease system and the establishment of convict farms.

Dr. W. E. B. DuBois delivered an address on "The Negro Problem" before an audience that taxed the capacity of Avery Chapel Monday night. He spoke on various social problems affecting the race, including living conditions, wages, and the necessity for the readjustment of the general attitude concerning the economic and civil status of the race. Dr. J. E. Spingarn, of New York; Miss Florence Kelley, of the same city, and Prof. William Pickens, of Talladega College, also delivered spirited addresses, in which the economic, social and civic needs of the race were dwelt upon. B. M. Roddy presided and Josiah T. Settle introduced the various speakers. A local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was formed.

ERVIN POPE NOT TO HANG FOR MURDER

Calhoun County Negro Was Five Times Found Guilty of Charge

GIVEN LIFE SENTENCE

admitted 11-20-14

Ervin Pope's sentence to die on the gallows for the murder of James McClurkin, Calhoun County former, was yseterday commuted to life imprisonment by Governor O'Neal. Pope, who is a negro, has been the central figure in one of the most unusual criminal cases in Alabama history. After repepeatedly respiting the negro in order that he might the more carefully examine the evidence in the case, the Governor reached the conclusion that "the weight of the evidence was not such as to justify the death penalty."

The negro was convicted five times in the Anniston City Court, and each time the punishment was fixed at the maximum. Four times the verdict was set aside, and a new trial granted on appeal to the Supreme Court. Sentence was affirmed by this tribunal after the fifth conviction, whereupon counsel for Pope sought executive intervention to save the negro's life.

Case Studied Thoroughly.

The Governor devoted much patient study to the case and granted [illegible] reprieves so that his investigation might be completed. A detailed statement of his reasons for commuting the sentnece was issued yesterday afternoon, and points out what appeared to him as sufficient cause for serious doubt as to the negro's guilt.

What Governor O'Neal regarded as the most incriminating link in the State's chain of circumstantial evidence was the fact that a pair of blood-stained shoes, bearing a particle of human skin, had been found in concealment under an outhouse on Pope's premises, and his statement deals at length with seeming flaws in the State's proof that the stains on the shoes were of human blood, and that the shoes had been worn by tne defendant.

The Governor states that he had the shoes sent to Dr. B. B. Ross, State Chemist, at Auburn for examination, and Dr. Ross reported that laboratory examinations failed to give any positive indications as to the identity of the supposed stains. It then occurred to the Governor that it would be well to obtain some circumstantial proof of the implication that the shoes had been worn by Pope. He had them sent to Birmingham, where Pope was in jail, and had J. D. Collins, a shoe merchant, take the shoes to the jail and try them on Pope's feet.

Shoes Too Large.

Mr. Collins testified in reporting to the Governor that the shoes were over two sizes larger than the foot of the defendant. One of the shoes also bore evidence that its wearer had a large bunion or protuberance on his foot; there was no such protuberance on either foot of the defendant, Mr. Collins reported. He gave it as his opinion that the shoes had not been broken, shared or worn by the negro Pope.

Detailed examination of the testimony of the negro John Body is entered into by the Governor in his statement and several apparent discrepancies are pointed out. Body testified at the first trial, but disappeared later, and since then has not been discovered.

In concluding his statement, the Governor says:

"It is claimed that I should not interfere because the defendant has been convicted by five different juries in Calhoun County and sentenced to death. It should also be remembered however, that four times this case has been reversed for errors prejudicial to the defendant, and the sole question for me to consider is not whether the weight of public opinion demands the execution of the defendant, but whether under all the facts and circumstances of the case I should exercise my constitutional power to commute the sentence from death to life-imprisonment. The defendant is a negro, and the record shows that he was in good circumstances, financially, at the time of the alleged commission of this crime, for a member of his race. It was showed that he owned a farm and his merchant was ready to advance him all the supplies that he might require in the cultivation of his land. There is absolutely nothing in the record showing that for the fifty years or more of his life that he had been convicted of crime or bore a bad reputation.

"The fact that there was no motive by reason of poverty or need for him to commit the crime is a strong cir-

225 PRISONERS ARE HANDLED AT THE COUNTY JAIL IN LAST MONTH

Two hundred and twenty prisoners were handled by the county officials at the county jail during the month of December. The cases of grand larceny outnumbered all others there being 52 prisoners confined to the jail during the month on this charge. The record of prisoners is taken from the docket at the jail, and not only includes the number of prisoners confined to the jail at the present time but also those who have been released, transferred or sent to the penitentiary and convict camps.

Particularly good work was done by the sheriff's force during the past three months in enforcing the prohibition law and during December, twenty-more prisoners were handled at the jail who are charged with violations of this law.

The record of cases handled by the county officials at the jail during the month is as follows:

Murder, 13; grand larceny, 52; vagrancy, 21; forgery, 5; burglary and grand larceny, 11; asasult to murder, 5; carrying pistol, 6; presenting firearms, 2; larceny, 5; perjury, 1; violating pistol laws, 7; assault and battery, 4; burglary, 1; threatening violence, 4; reckless driving of auto, 2; wantonly and maliciously killing animals, 6; violating Sunday laws, 7; state convicts, 36; escapes, 1; poisoning animals, 1; prohibition law, 24; riding trains, 1; assault, 4; embezzlement, 3; obtaining boarding and lodging by fraudulent means or pretenses, 1; assault with weapon, 2; resisting officer, 1; false pretenses, 1; robbery, 5; malicious mischief, 1; selling mortgage property, 5.

PATCHING UP THE LAW IN ALABAMA

Association at Birmingham Hard Task.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

mination In the Administratior

of the State Law on Account of Condition and Color Gives Rise to Unusual Action on the Part of Southern Jurists.

While the Bar association at Birmingham, Ala., is working hard on ways and means to revise the court procedure whereby standards for practicing attorneys will be raised and technicalities and financial, political and social influence as an obstruction to law enforcement reduced to a minimum, two cases are causing widespread comment and an increased sentiment for judicial reform, says the New York Evening Post in a recent issue. One is the case of an obscure Negro, who was sentenced to fifty years in the penitentiary for robbing a fellow workman of 50 cents and was paroled by the governor because of ill health after serving twenty years.

In striking contrast is the case of a highly educated and widely connected aristocrat who, in the capacity of a trusted official, robbed the state of $100,000, was sentenced to ten years in the penitentiary, took an appeal and after six months, has not yet been committed to state prison.

This contrast in its effect upon the public thought and demand for more equitable law enforcement is strengthened by the case of another Negro, who, upon purely circumstantial evidence, has been sentenced by a county jury five times to the gallows during a legal fight covering a period of four years, had his verdicts reversed and remanded three times by the supreme court and is awaiting execution under a fourth ruling of the higher tribunal.

Twenty years ago Frank Williams, an illiterate and poverty stricken Negro working on the road, robbed a fellow workman of 50 cents. A Hale county jury sentenced Williams to fifty years in the penitentiary. He made an excellent prisoner, having been a trusty for eighteen years. His health gave way, and one of the judges of the supreme court recommended that he be paroled. This was recently ordered by the governor after twenty years of the half a century sentence was served. Williams is now sixty-five years old and very feeble.

Theodore Lacy, formerly chief clerk of the state convict bureau, who handled $2,000,000 a year of the state's revenue derived from the system of leasing convicts to coal mines and turpentine camps, was sentenced to ten years in the penitentiary for stealing $100,000 of the state's funds. Lacy is a grandson of the late United States Senator Edmund W. Pettus of Alabama, of Confederate fame as a general and a political idol in Alabama.

For a while Lacy lived high. Everybody like him. His convival temperament caused him to run short in his accounts. Then he collected $100,000 in cash from the Montgomery banks on checks signed by the president of the convict board, packed the money in suitcases and fled. For six months the state tried in vain to apprehend him and spent $10,000 in the work.

Suddenly one night Lacy rolled into Montgomery in a high power motorcar, surrendered to the sheriff and announced that he had returned to "face the music." When arraigned he pleaded that he had been promised a light sentence, possibly a pardon, if he would return and make a deal for restoration of the money. No part of it has ever been recovered. Lacy was visited in jail by a stream of prominent people and loaded down with floral tributes and table delicacies. After a sensational trial he was sentenced to ten years in the penitentiary, but an appeal to the supreme court has been pending for months, and so far he has not served a day.

The case of Ervin Pope, a Negro who was convicted of murdering a white man on the testimony of a blacksmith who declared the peculiar marks in the mud from the shoe of a mule coincided exactly with unusual dents he made in shoeing Pope's animal, is widely cited in contrast with Lacy's trial. Pope has been sentenced to death five times by the county court. Three times the supreme court reversed the verdicts, and once its own ruling, finally confirming the death sentence. Appeal proceedings are again pending.

CONVICTS ARE BEATEN AND CAMPS UNCLEAN DECLARES COMMITTEE

Startling revelations of cruelty in certain convict camps and criminal lack of proper sanitation in others came to light in the reading of the report of the senate penitentiary committee before the senate. Some of the disclosures that are made again bring to mind the recent probe into conditions by the prison commission, and open the way for further investigation by that body.

The report which is an exhaustive one, states that conditions in general are good and that seventy-three counties were found to be in excellent shape and properly managed by the wardens in charge. On the other hand, the committee cites several instances of cruelty, particularly in the manner of punishment, and of sanitary conditions that are considered dangerous. In this connection the committee pays a tribute to the prison commission and suggests that there be a more rigid inspection and enforcement of the very admirable rules of the commission. Extreme care for the health of convicts is recommended.

CONVICTS WHIPPED.

Citing instances of apparent cruelty to convicts, the committee points to McDuffie county and the specific case of Charles Slater who seemed to have been severely whipped. Jones county camp is mentioned as being dirty and the management is condemned.

In Greene and Baldwin counties, two Negroes claimed to have been too severely whipped. It was ascertained here, said the report, that convicts were whipped on their naked bodies and that there was no limit to the number of licks administered to alleged offenders of camp rules.

Dougherty county was found to have no hospital and in Worth there were inadequate heating facilities for the cold weather. Screven county was found to be very insanitary and a consumptive Negro, too ill to escape, had he been freed, was found chained in a car with other prisoners who were well. No records of anything were kept, says the report. Jenkins county camp is characterized as being fitted up with "filthy" tents for the prisoners.

The most startling revelation of conditions in any of the camps was made in the part of the report bearing on Johnson county. Here the committee declares, is a warden who says he makes no attempt to comply with the rules of the prisoner commission, claiming to know better himself how to handle a camp. The condition of this camp is reported as insanitary.

LITTLE FRESH MEAT.

From one of the convict guards at the Emanuel county camp the committee learned that fresh meat was bought but once in every three or four months. Information had come to them, the report continued, that Neel Cross, the warden there, drank on Saturdays and Sundays and forced his convicts to dance and sing for his amusement.

The report of the committee, of which Senator M. C. Tarvis is chairman, and which arrived at its conclusions through reports from joint sub-committees of the house and senate covering investigations made during vacation, call attention to the general improvement in the country roads and estimates that farm lands have enhanced in value from 25 per-cent to 100 percent where the roads have been improved. The cost of road improvement is estimated at from $2.50 to $75,00 per mile though the sum of $1,000 is declared to be sufficient for that amount of work.

The cost of caring for the convicts per day was found to range from 26⅔ cents to $1.90. The maximum cost, the report declares, should not exceeds 60 cen's.

But twenty-three counties were not included in the report, Chatham being the only large one in the state that was not visited.

THE HOMICIDE RECORD

The homicide season is year-long and no section of the country can boast of an unusually small crop of murders, as compared with any other section. The number of persons killed in quarrels, fights and by burglars and hold-up men in the course of a year in the United States would compare favorably with the casualty list of a hard campaign in war times. That may seem to be an exaggerated statement, but there are figures to support it. Not long ago Atlanta was busily calling attention to the number of homicides that had occurred in Fulton county in recent years, and to the comparatively insignificant number of executions that had resulted. Last year Alabama's homicides were in a ratio of at least 50 to 1 to her executions.

The report of Charles W. Peters, chief deputy sheriff of Cook county, Illinois, shows that in 1913 there were 233 homicides in Chicago. That was at the rate of one in each 10,000 of population. If the percentage of homicides was as great the country over last year as in Chicago there were 10,000 of them in the United States. If 10,000 American soldiers were killed in one campaign the fighting would have to be far more desperate than occurred at any time in the war with Spain. Apparently, piping times of peace are as productive of bloodshed as are some wars.

Deputy Peters' report shows another interesting thing. There was not an execution in 1913 in Cook county for those 233 homicides. That ratio, of course, is not maintained throughout the country, but the number of executions is exceedingly small in comparison with the number of homicides, so small in fact that it may be said that the fear of the death penalty plays but a small part in preventing bloodshed. It is almost getting to the point where it may be doubted whether fear of any punishment at all stays hand of a man who seeks to s personally for a grievance makes his living by robbery. The men who take the law into their own hands not especially in mobs to avenge crimes against others, but to avenge wrongs they think they have suffered personally are, if anything, becoming more numerous.

All this is said merely to point out that no one section of the country is more bloodstained at present than any other, and that the same problem is before them all, the problem of putting a check upon the shedding of blood. The attention that is being paid to crimes by bandits in Mexico should not distract attention from the crimes, very similar to those of the Mexicans, that are constantly being committed in the United States. It is time for "intervention"—by surer punishment for crime, by less of the law's delay, by the arousing of public sentiment against pistol toting—to save the lives of the 10,000 Americans who without it are likely to be victims of homicides within the next twelve months.

TWO NEGROES ARE HELD FOR ROBBERY

Special to The Advertiser.

DECATUR, ALA., Dec. 25.—Two negroes, Howard Jackson and John Harris, were arrested by New Decatur police today at Oklahoma, a suburb of the Decaturs, on the charge of being implicated in the robbery of Olshine's Department Store a few nights ago and stealing several hundred dollars worth of goods. A considerable amount of clothing was recovered at Oklahoma. The other negroes, who are believed to be implicated in the robbery were arrested at Hartselle and brought back here.

The officers learned that these negroes had shipped two suit cases full of clothing to Birmingham and the police of that city have been notified to arrest anyone who calls for those suit cases.

It is believed by the officers here that this robbery was the work of a regular organized band of thieves who have been operating in this section and other places for some time past. Every effort is being made on the part of the officers to locate the other members of the gang and bring them to justice.

Crime - 1914

WHY SHOULD THIS BE?

Editor The Advertiser: advertiser 7-9-14

As I came up Washington Street and turned in down Lawrence today noon, I saw a sight which should not be permitted in this civilized age and among cilvilized people. In front of me, with hand cuffs on and a six foot chain fastened to same and the chain in the hands of the State's transfer agent, walked a neat-appearing young white man. By his side was a negro, also hand cuffed, but not in chains. They passed along down Lawrence until they reached Dexter Avenue. At the Post office corner, they both got into an electric bus, and seated side by side, and with the chain in the hand of the Transfer Agent, started up Dexter Avenue en route, I suppose, to the State Penitentary. I do not know anything about the white man, or of the crime with which he is charged, nor does that matter. Helpless and powerless, he is entitled at the hands of the State, to some consideration for his personal feeling and his future welfare. It is bad enough for the man to have to serve a term in the State Penitentiary, but when you parade him on the streets in your Capitol City handcuffed and chained like a wild beast, what can you expect to be left in him for the future, when he is released from the penitentiary.

I have no criticism to make of the Convict Bureau, nor of the Transfer Agent in charge of the prisoners in question, but it is with the system that I find fault. The State of Alabama is too rich and too great a State to handle human beings in any such manner as this. It certainly should make some provision for taking charge of prisoners at the prison door, and placing them in some conveyance to be conveyed to the trains or places of confinement. The question of expense should not be permitted to enter into a thing of this kind. We have much to say about the cruelty and the barbarism of other nations, we had better put our own household in shape before we attempt to arrange the matters of Sister States.

Warren S. Reese.

Montgomery, Ala., July 8, 1914.

BLEASE AND CONVICTS.

advertiser — 7-7-14

Cole Blease of South Carolina has pardoned 1,200 convicts in the last three years and avows his purpose of cleaning out the penitentiary altogether by August first. "I work by the Golden Rule," says Cole in defense of his practice of pardoning and commuting. In other words, we take it, if the Governor were a convict he would expect his Governor to pardon him, or at least commute his sentence.

No wonder the people of South Carolina are beginning to turn against Bleaseism now that it is beginning to reveal itself so clearly.

CONCERNING THE POPE CASE.

advertiser 1-22-14

The Birmingham Ledger, in its issue of Friday, contained an editorial entitled, "Pope's Case Is One of the Mysteries," in which the charge is made that some powerful interest has protected this man. In another part of the same editorial the following language is used: "If guilty, as even a life sentence indicates that the Governor believes, it is difficult to understand the influence exerted at the bar and in chambers to protect a man guilty of murder."

In the Governor's office, in the pardon files, which are open to public inspection, every letter, communication of any kind or character in reference to the Pope case is carefully filed. An examination of these records shows that only about one-half a dozen letters have been written in favor of commuting the sentence of Pope from death to life imprisonment. On the contrary, petitions were filed, signed by several thousand citizens, urging the Governor not to commute the sentence. The official record, therefore, in the Governor's office and all the facts and circumstances connected with this case flatly contradicts the statement that any powerful influence interest has protected Pope.

At the time he was indicted it was shown that Pope was a negro in comfortable circumstances, with good credit, but that all of his property was soon exhausted in the protracted trials in the case. In the last few trials of his case his money has been exhausted and the attorneys by whom he was represented were lawyers appointed by the court and who worked without any compensation. The only powerful influence that secured the commutation of this sentence was the conscientious belief, on the part of the Governor, that the evidence as shown by the records was not of sufficient weight or so conclusive as to justify the imposition of the death penalty.

Under the laws of Alabama, when a person is found guilty of murder in the first degree, he must either suffer death or imprisonment in the penitentiary for life, at the discretion of the jury. The Governor is vested with the power to review this discretion and to commute the sentence to life imprisonment, if in his opinion the evidence was not so conclusive or certain as to justify the death penalty. Under the laws of Alabama, therefore, the death penalty is authorized, but not commanded or compelled and can never be imposed except at the discretion of the jury on their own responsibility and controlled alone by their own consciences. On an appeal to the pardoning power the same discretion that is vested in the jury is vested in the Governor, who can commute the sentence, grant a reprieve, a parole or pardon.

It is also well known that no delegations visited the Governor in behalf of Pope except his attorneys. Pope was a negro, without influential friends, political or social power and arrayed against him was a very strong and powerful public sentiment demanding his execution. If the Governor had been a man who in the exercise of his constitutional duty could be influenced or controlled by public sentiment or powerful influences or interests, if he had been a man who always sought the lines of least resistance and readily yielded to public clamor, he could easily have declined to interfere and allowed the death sentence to be inflicted.

It is well known that he has given this case weeks of painstaking study and consideration, that he has sought only to reach the truth and to discharge his duty according to his conscience under his oath of office. In a case of this character, in view of the facts and the official record, the intimation that the Governor has been controlled by powerful influences or interests is as unjust as it is unfounded. As declared by the Governor in his statement, "Pope, although a negro, obscure and unpopular, against whom was arrayed a powerful public sentiment, was a citizen of Alabama, and however humble, was entitled to the full protection of the law." The Governor also in his statement declared that the record showed that from the day of his indictment to this hour, Pope had been keep confined in the Birmingham jail, a circumstance which clearly showed that in the opinion of the authorities, on account of the inflamed condition of public sentiment, there was apprehension of mob violence. The authorities are to be commended for their precaution, but that very precaution accentuates the fact that public passion had not subsided during the long years during which this case was pending and that public opinion was not such as to justify the belief that the juries by whom he was tried were not to some extent biased or influenced.

Governor O'Neal is a trained lawyer, and even if he erred no impartial critic in Alabama can deny that he acted according to the dictates of his conscience and that his conclusion was based upon what he honestly believed was his duty under the circumstances.

The Ledger demands that what it terms "the secret evidence," which saved the convict's life, be made public. There was no secret evidence in the case. It is all set out in the records of the court and all the communications and correspondence on file in the Governor's office, are subject to public inspection.

There is no force in the argument that commutation to life imprisonment is an admission that the defendant is not guilty. If this argument was sound every jury finding a defendant guilty of murder in the first degree and imposing life imprisonment instead of death, would, according to The Ledger, do violence to their oaths and consciences.

The public will be more inclined to accept the final conclusion of the Governor of the State, who has given this case weeks of careful study and thought, who has examined every scrap of evidence, who, resisting public sentiment and clamor, has acted according to the dictates of his conscience and his oath of office, rather than to accept the unjust criticism of a newspaper that has never read the records and that bases its conclusions solely on idle rumor and street corner gossip.

The fact that Governor O'Neal exercised his constitutional power to commute the sentence of Ervin Pope to life imprisonment in the face of a powerful public sentiment demanding his death, shows conclusively that he resisted, instead of yielding, to the "powerful interests," which The Ledger claims has had so decided an influence in the decision of this case.

We would also remind The Ledger that four times the court of last resort, an impartial tribunal, free from prejudice and popular influence, has declared by their reversal of the decisions of the lower court,

Knoxville, Tenn.
SENTINEL

JUL 2 1914

TWO JUVENILE COURTS

Memphis gets a compliment and a reproach in a write up of its white and its negro juvenile courthouses in the Survey. The city has given the juvenile court, for its white branch, a disused school building, a handsome brick structure with hall basement and two and a half stories above the basement. There are separate detention rooms for delinquent and dependent children, there is a school with six teachers, for backward and truant children, there is a well equipped workshop for boys, there is a detached model cottage for girls to practice cookery and housekeeping in, there is a large gymnasium; all in addition to the offices of the judge, clerk, parole and truant officers, etc. Florence Kelley declares it is the model juvenile courthouse in the United States. But she does not understand why negroes are left to buy premises for a negro juvenile courthouse, nor why there is no room in the 25 acre grounds of the Negro Orphans' association and Old People's Home for helpless negro children. At present the institution houses nine aged negro women. There is no industrial school in either the city or the county for negro children, says Mrs. Kelley, and negro delinquent children are committed to the care of persons who do not call for them or who are unfit. The day she left Memphis there was locked up in the basement of the negro juvenile court hopse a negro boy of four and a half years who had been arrested for breaking the window of a shoe store at 2:50 o'clock in the morning and stealing a pair of children's shoes. The child has neither mother nor father and there is no negro teacher for delinquent negro children, and nobody seemed to have the slightest suggestion to make as to the disposition of the four year old admirer of real shoes. Perhaps this story does not concern Knoxville. Perhaps Memphis will think for itself of its attitude toward delinquent and dependent negro children, who are likely to be just as costly as criminals, when they grow up, as if they were white children.

THE CONVICT DEPARMENT.

Editor The Advertiser:

At present there is much discussion in the State, relative to the Convict Department, and two propositions, in reference to it, are receiving careful consideration. Advertiser 11/5/14

One of these propositions is the abolition of the present convict system and working the convicts on the roads, and the other is to apply part of the earnings of the convicts to the support of their families.

This article is not written in advocacy of the present convict system, nor in support of, nor in opposition to, either of the previously mentioned propositions, but to present some facts and figures that will have to be taken into consideration in the settlement of the convict problem.

The present convict system is the result of gradual development and improvement.

It is undoubtedly the best system that the State has ever had, both in the humane treatment of the convicts, and as a source of revenue for the State.

Of course, a better system might be inaugurated, but that is a question for legislative wisdom and action.

For the fiscal year ending September 30, 1914, the receipts and disbursements, of the Convict Department, were as follows:

Receipts paid in the State Treasury	$1,162,493.18

Disbursements.

Expenses of Department	$ 623,748.21
Salaries	166,863.87
Cost Bills	55,297.67
Balance of Receipts	316,583.43
Total	$1,162,493.18

This makes the total receipts of the department $845,909.75, or nearly three-fourths of the total receipts, while the actual net receipts are $316,483.43.

For the four fiscal years ending September 30, 1914, from October 1, 1910, to September 30, 1914, the receipts and disbursements were as follows:

1911	$1,085,854.20
1912	1,073,296.16
1913	1,067,773.18
1914	1,162,493.18
Total	$4,389,416.72

Disbursements.

Expenses of Department	$2,154,551.62
Salaries	581,266.52
Cost Bills	172,297.67
Balance of Receipts	1,481,300.91
Total	$4,389,416.72

While the State received $4,389,41672 for these four years for the hire of convicts, it had to pay $2,154,551.62, practically one-half of the receipts, for the maintenance of the convicts; $581,266.52 for salaries in the Convict Department, and $172,297.67 to county officials for the conviction of the convicts.

This makes the total expenses of the department for four years $2,908,115.81, which is practically three-fifths of the entire receipts.

This leaves $1,481,300.91 net receipts of the department for four years, an average of $370,325.22 per annum.

Besides the regular expenses of the Convict Department, the State pays tens of thousands of dollars annually for the administration of the criminal law, not included in these disbursements.

For instance, for the four years ending September 30, 1914, the State paid $1,063,105.73 for judicial salaries, an average of $265,751.43 per annum.

Probably one-half of the time of the courts is devoted to the transaction of criminal business and it will be reasonable to conclude that one-half of these judicial salaries or $531,552.86, should be applied for the administration of the criminal law.

Of course, the criminal law has to be enforced, and the State has to pay for its enforcement, but if this law did not have to be enforced, the State would require only half as many judges as it has and would only have to pay half as much judicial salaries as it does.

In addition, for the four fiscal years ending September 30, 1914, the State paid $20,049.50 for the removal of prisoners and $516,553.79 for feeding prisoners.

Many of these prisoners were never convicted and many were sentenced to hard labor for the different counties, but their removal and feeding are expenses for the administration of the criminal law.

For the four fiscal years ending September 30, 1914, the State received from the Convict Department $4,389,416.72, and paid for its expenses and the administration of the criminal law, the following amounts:

Expenses Convict Department	$2,908,115.81
Judicial Salaries (12)	531,552.86
Removal of Prisoners	20,049.50
Feeding Prisoners	516,553.79
Total	$3,976,271.96

This amount deducted from $4,389,416.72, the receipts of the Convict Department for four years, leaves the State $413,144.76 net receipts for four years, an average of $103,286.19 per annum.

From these figures, it is seen that the Convict Department does not much more than pay its expenses and pay for the administration of the criminal law.

For the fiscal year ending September 30, 1914, the total receipts of the Convict Department were $1,162,493.18.

The expenses of the department and the administration of the criminal law were as follows:

Expenses Convict Department	$ 845,909.75
Judicial Salaries (1-2)	129,723.64
Removal of Prisoners	5,799.17
Feeding Prisoners	130,000.00
Total	$1,111,432.56

This amount deducted from $1,162,493.18, the total receipts, leaves the State $51,060.62 net receipts for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1914.

For the fiscal year ending September 30, 1914, there were an average of 2,500 convicts (State) and each of these convicts cost the State an average of $338.36.

All the tuberculosis convicts and those physically disabled or partially disabled are confined at Wetumpka, where the walls and buildings have cost the State $1,000,000.

All other convicts are worked in coal mines, at saw mills, on farms, and in factories.

On an average 148 officials are employed by the State in the Convict Department.

By concentration in a comparatively few mines, mills and farms, the expenses of the department are diminished.

The convicts lose very little time on account of the weather.

In the mines, all convicts who work extra time are paid for it.

If the present convict system is abolished and the convicts are worked on the roads, where is the money going to be obtained?

It will certainly cost more to work them on the roads than it does under the present system.

It would probably require $1,000,000 to $1,500,000 annually to work them on the roads, and there would be no revenue derived from their labor.

Under the present system the Convict Department pays one-sixth of the revenue of the State, and while nearly three-fourths of it are applied to the payment of the expenses of the department, provision would have to be made for the deficit caused by the loss of the other fourth to pay for the other expenses of the administration of the criminal law.

With all its revenues from all sources, the disbursements of the State Treasury, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1914, were $436,705.79 more than the receipts.

From these figures it is also very evident that if the State pays for some of the support of the families of the convicts, out of their earnings, most of the money would have to be appropriated out of the general fund in the treasury, for after the payment of the expenses of the Convict Department and the administration of the criminal law, very little of the money received from the department is left.

These figures show the questions for solution in the convict problem.

J. T. GORMAN.

November 3, 1914.

LEE DECLARES NEGRO MURDERED HIS UNCLE

Constitution 4-7-14

Black Arrested on Suspicion. Coroner's Jury Still Probing Hawkinsville Case.

Hawkinsville, Ga., April 6.—(Special.)—The body of Paul Bonnell, who was murdered in his bed here Saturday night, was carried to his former home at Live Oak, Fla., today for burial, accompanied by one of his brothers. Harry Lee, the boy nephew, who was arrested charged with the crime on a warrant sworn out by Acting Marshal Black, is still in jail and has not attempted to give bond.

Lee now says that a negro did the killling, and that he saw him at the back door just after the murder was committed.

John Hughs, a negro aoout 22 years old, was arrested today on suspicion, and is being held by the authorities. No direct evidence against any one has been given out as yet, and the coroner's jury has not finished its investigation, but will tomorrow, and in the meantime every report bearing on the case is being taken up and investigated for what it is worth.

The Bonnell brothers made a record-breaking automobile dash from Live Oak to Hawkinsville, a distance of 200 miles, in exactly 10 hours last night to reach the scene. The city council has offered $100 reward for the perpetrator and the county of Pulaski will doubtless offer $100 tomorrow. The governor will be asked to go the limit in offering a state reward, and the relatives speak of putting up a big sum. New developments are expected to reach the public ear every minute, as no time is being lost in the work of running down the guilty party.

NEGRO USED BULLETS IN ANSWER TO CURSES

Constitution

Clifford C. Cook, Well-Known Young Man of Macon, Probably Fatally Wounded.

7/14/14

Macon, Ga., July 13.—(Special.)—Clifford C. Cook, one of the best known young men in Macon, was shot and probably fatally wounded, by a negro in Wall street alley, in the heart of the business district of the city tonight between 10 and 11 o'clock. Two shots took effect in Cook's body, one through the right lung and the other at the base of the abdomen. The negro made his escape and though a searching party is looking for him he has not been caught.

Cook and Ben Atwater were standing in the alley just off Second street when the negro came hurriedly through and brushed into Young Atwater, who turned and scored him for not being more careful, at the same time calling the negro back. The negro turned around and approached the young men and Atwater proceeded to curse him. Without replying the negro drew his gun and fired at Atwater once, the bullet going wild. He then fired twice at Cook, both shot's taking effect. Cook is the son of Mrs. Mary W. Cook 821 Oak street. He is employed by the A. B. Small company.

WHITE MAN STABBED BY UNKNOWN NEGRO

3-8-14

Jim Bettie Is Wounded, but His Assailant Manages to Make Escape.

Constitution

Jim Bettie, of 538 Crew street, was stabbed in the back last night about 10:30 o'clock by an unknown negro, in front of W. N. Dodson's wholesale produce store at 16 Butler street, just off Decatur street, and for a while it was thought the white man would die. Later he rallied when taken to the Grady hospital and about midnight was dismissed.

The first time, it seems, anyone knew of the fight in the street was when Bettie staggered into the door of Dodson's store, crying for aid. Dodson, seeing the white man's plight, seized his pistol from his drawer and rushed into the street in pursuit of the negro, who dodged around a fence and disappeared in the darkness before he could fire at him. W. A. Brown, of No. 6 Butler street, was in Dodson's store, and caught the wounded man as he fell into the place. He called the police and hospital ambulance.

STOCKADE WATCHMAN SHOT BY NEGROES

Constitution 9-26-14

Augusta, Ga., September 25.—(Special.)—Joe Cole, the white night watchman at the Richmond county stockade, was shot yesterday morning by Tom Harris and Louis Wiggins, negroes, who then made their escape. Cole had risen early to rouse the cooks and permit them to go to the kitchen. Just as he opened the door to the quarters, Harris began to fire, and the watchman was struck in the right leg, just above the knee, and fell to the floor. The pair then made good their escape.

Investigation showed that the revolvers were probably furnished by friends outside. Harris is what is known as a "bad negro,' 'and was under a four-year sentence for shooting a furniture collector named Eubanks last year.

Although several life-term prisoners were confined in the room where the shooting occurred, no one of them tried to escape.

Crime - 1914.

THE CONVICT, OR THE TAX-PAYER?

Advertiser 11/7/14

We chee fully open our columns to another extended communication from Citizen upon the convict system and we again publish his excited comment upon the deplorable conditions revealed in an investigation at Baltimore, and his assertion that a man was killed in an Alabama mine, although his term of service had expired. Now, having twice at length and in full presented Citizen's comments upon these abuses, we are gratified to note that in his last communication, he at last gets on solid ground and puts himself on record as favoring something concrete, and so clears himself of the suspicion that he objects to everything. without having a plan of improvement.

We have repeatedly pointed out that State officials are in charge of the convicts, not private interests, and that if a convict served in the mines after his term expired it was the fault of an agent and employe of the State. If an agent or employe of the State can be guilty of such an injustice at the mines, why cannot the same sort of an agent or employe be guilty of the same indefensible oversight, when superintending convicts on the public roads? If convicts are ill-treated by the agents and employes of the State at the mines, why will they not be subjected to ill treatment, by employes and agents, who, if they are not the same men, will be selected in the same manner.

In the past ten years, thousands and thousands of Alabama convicts have been worked under a system which its founders hoped would be humane, and which was established to help and benefit the convict as well as society. Out of all these years of such operation. some isolated cases of abuses are found. Citizen, like the amiable Mr. Dick, in David Copperfield is possessed by one idea. Mr. Dick could prepare an excellent petition to Parliament, except that the head of King Charles would always appear in it. Mr. Dick could write nothing, unless the persistent head of King Charles would project itself into his literary communication. Citizen does not, perhaps he cannot, deal fairly with the State system of working its own convicts; the one idea of abuses, out of the thousands and thousands of convicts guarded and worked, projects itself into his literary communicat like the obstinate head of King Charles.

His refusal to see any good in the eight hour system of working convicts, of keeping them always in charge or control of the State, in housing them in clean, wholesome barracks in which the convicts are housed. in kindly and humane treatment of many thousands, is comparable to the man in Pilgrim's Progress, who refused to look up but kept steadily raking at what was on the ground. We have yet to have Citizen or any person according to his way of thinking explain why, if agents of the State abuse convicts now, they will not abuse them if they and the convicts are removed from the mines. Nor can we understand why Citizen with his admitted morality, humanity and virtue, does not give due acknowledgement to the humane manner in which the convicts are housed and cared for under the existing system.

And right here, we want to discuss one proposition submitted by Citizen, because in his last letter he at last stands for something concrete and definite. For one thing he says, "We hazard the suggestion that any one knowing the conditions in the mines with its dust, its damp and its dangers would prefer working in God's fresh air and sunshine." We may suggest that one of the troubles with Alabama now is that there has been too much "hazarding" by people who have been making laws and laying burdens on the tax payers. There has been too much of the spirit of "So I am allowed to make the reforms. I care not who pays the taxes."

After a personal inspection of convict employment in the mines in which we saw them, not on one day, but on several, finish their task at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, come from the mines to take a cool and refreshing bath in the afternoon with the sun still high in the heaven, walk about an enclosure of several acres before going to an excellent supper in clean and sanitary barracks, where they were permitted to talk and play, we do not hesitate to sayer that they were better treated, happier and more contented than the convicts working in the rain, storm and sun of the roads and housed at night in close and stuffy cages. It has been our privilege to inspect thoroughly both methods of employment, and we do not hesitate to say that the convict under the eight hour system and housed and fed in the barracks in the care of State wardens who are responsible only to the State. are infinitely better off than those worked in the open air under all sorts of weather and with no protection from the weather except being locked and chained in stuffy cages at night. We wonder if Citizen has ever inspected one of the State operated mines, or if he has looked closely into the conditions surrounding the working of convicts on the roads

Pained by the statement that convicts working on the farms of the State beg to be transferred to the mines, Citizen respectfully challenges this. This challenge is an admission of ignorance of Alabama convict conditions. If he knew anything about conditions, he would know that the convicts on the farms are continually and repeatedly begging for the privilege of working in the mines. Having challenged the statement, we refer him to the correspondence of convicts now on file in the Convict Department, containing the letters of convicts begging the transfer, and we refer him to any official who is brought into contact with the convicts, and who have been forced to hear their pleas.

"But granting this 'ipse dixit' of The Advertiser is true," he asks in fine frenzy "why in the name of the dignity of the State of Alabama some task system is provided for the farm and the camps." After Citizen gets through putting some of the convicts on the roads, we trust that he will establish an eight hour a day system on all farms of Alabama, even as the eight hour system is operated in the mines of the State. But for the present during the working season. both independent and convict farmers will find it necessary at certain seasons of the year to work more than eight hours a day and to take rest and leisure at other seasons. It is possible that the convicts wish to return to the mines because the barracks are more comfortable than their farm quarters, and they are better fed and given more comfortable surroundings.

We are going to do our level best to help Citizen be practical and when he asks a practical question, we are going to give him a direct answer. "Does The Advertiser approve the present convict lease system?" he asks. The Advertiser does not approve the present "convict lease system" because in the strict meaning of the word, it is not a "lease system." Again, The Advertiser does not approve the present State system of employing convicts as the best that human ingenuity can devise, but The Advertiser does unhesitatingly approve the present system as the best the State has yet had.

Question number two is, "Does The Advertiser believe that convict labor on the roads would be cheaper than free labor and is there a better use to which convicts could be put?" The Advertiser does not believe ultimately that convict labor would be either as cheap or as efficient as free labor in road building. We would remind Citizen that the counties of Alabama have the right to work their convicts on the road, and that some of them are making the experiment. The Advertiser believes that it would be better for these experiments to be worked out before the State entered on a two million dollar a year experiment of working all its convicts on the road.

Question number three is, "Would there be as many crippled and diseased convicts in the State hospital, permanent charges on the State, if they were worked under strict supervision in the open air?" It is common sense to believe that the convicts. worked in all sorts of weather in the day and chained in stuffy cages at night would be quite as subject to disease and injury as the convicts working eight hours in the mines and spending the remainder time in the yards of a barracks or in a warm and ventilated building.

Question number four is, "Are the convicts employed in the State's cotton mill subjected to the abuses that the Huxford-Orvin investigation revealed?" If not, why not; all are under the control of the State Convict Department, and if the department is unable to protect them in one place, it is unable to protect them in another? If the State cannot look after them in a humane and just manner at the mines, it cannot look after them in a humane and just manner on the roads.

The Advertiser is not committed to the present system as the best that human intelligence and human justice can evolve, but it is committed to this or some other self supporting system for the convicts in opposition to a plan which would cost the

COLORED PROBATION OFFICE IN D. OF C. JUVENILE COURT

In the Home of General Grant.

(Washington Post, July 23, 1914)

New quarters for the juvenile court were yesterday selected at 203 I street northwest in the four-story and basement brick residence at one time occupied by Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and later used as a residence by Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman. The move will bring the juvenile court within two blocks of Judiciary Square, where most of the other District courts are located. It has been long felt by Judge Latimer that such a location would be desirable. Two additional probation officers have been appointed. One is Miss Mary Darwin.

First Colored Incumbent.

The other appointee is Bula Ross Grey, the first Colored probation officer of the local juvenile court. She has been employed for the last three years as assistant preceptress at Howard University. Her appointment took effect yesterday. The clerk for the probation office has not yet been named.

A few days ago, in passing, we watched the motions and looks of the policeman and a band of young colored persons who were blocking the right-hand corner of 13th street and Lenox avenue. The policeman had commanded them to move on, and they did so but in a sidelong fashion, with all their eyes upon the policeman, ready for any sort of trouble, while the policeman's right-hand held the "billy," his right hanging carelessly in the direction of his hip pocket. A suspicious movement of either the policeman or the young persons would have provoked an ugly condition. We think colored policemen and detectives could handle such conditions as obtain in colored districts better than Irish, Dutch and Italian officers have done it and are doing it. We urge that it be tried. It has worked well in Philadelphia and other cities, and should work well in New York City.

NEGRO TAILOR SHOOTS AT NEGRO DENTIST

Advertiser 9-3-14

Special to The Advertiser.

SELMA, ALA., Sept. 2--Considerable excitement was caused on Broad Street near the city National Bank this afternoon about 4 o'clock when H. B. Kenan, a well known negro tailor shot three times at Dr. Stanley Sullivan a well known negro dentist of the city.

All three shots went wild but while Kenan was shooting he did not fire a shot near any of the many pedestrians on the street at the time. After the shooting both negroes were arrested and will have a hearing during the session of the recorders court tomorrow morning.

Kenan claims that Sullivan broke up his home and he got up from a sick bed this morning to look for Sullivan. The woman in the case is confined in a local negro infirmary recovering from a dose of strychnine which she took with suicidal intent bout a week ago.

State two million dollars, each year of its operations. Nor is The Advertiser persuaded that any injustice is being done able-bodied convicts in making them support themselves, and not compelling the tax payer to dig deeper into his pocket for their support.

The net receipts from the Convict Department are $318,583.23. This is only a book profit, for it is eaten up in the salaries for the necessary officers of criminal courts and in fees and transfer bills. The department also expends each year the sum of $945.-902.75. If the system was suddenly changed all this money would have to come from the tax payer. Is it just to levy this additional tax upon the tax payer for the man who has committed crime? And here the State is with an annual deficit of $436,000.

CITIZEN ASKS SOME QUESTIONS.

Editor The Advertiser:

On Tuesday last, you kindly printed the writer's letter relative to the convict system, in which, among other things he mentioned the report of the unspeakable conditions existing at the Atmore camp in 1913, the killing of a convict in the Banner mine explosion months after he was entitled to his liberty, the mutilated hand of a white man caused by drilling out a failed shot of dynamite, the blowing off of a white man's leg from a similar cause, and the array of cripples and invalids at the Wetumpka hospital, as being slightly inconsistent with twentieth century civilization.

You thereupon propounded to the writer a long list of questions. Suppressing the feeling that some of these inquiries could not have been made in earnest, we respond to the implied invitation to reply.

The first series of questions follows: "What other system would 'Citizen' substitute? The abuses referred to were perpetrated by State convict managers. Would 'Citizen' have the State relinquish its control over convicts? Would not State employed men work our convicts under any other system, just as is now done? What assurance has 'Citizen' that convicts would be better treated under some other system?"

We would substitute a system, if we could, in which no private interest, individual or corporation, could, for a consideration, lease a human being and use him for private gain, a system in which the private mercenary motive would be eleminated and the temptation to drive and maltreat men, as was done in the Huxford-Orvin camp, would be absent. We believe that the best plan is to use the labor of the convicts to better the roads of the State.

If it is true. as you affirm, that the abuses mentioned were perpetrated by State convict managers, we are so optimistic as to believe that there could be established a system with managers who could at least keep account of the expiration of sentences and thereby prevent such a horrible occurrence as the killing of a man in the mines, months after he was entitled to his freedom. We believe in a system, where the private lessee would be eliminated and where, in consequence, the so-called State guards would have no temptation to carry out the wishes of their (oftimes) real masters, the lessees.

No one, so far as we know, has ever suggested that the State relinquish its control over convicts. But there are thousands of people in this State who will speed the day when the State will assume the absolute control and will exercise it in a manner becoming a sovereignty which is too advanced in the simple principles of civilization and Christianity to turn its convicts over, for a consideration, to a man or a corporation to use for what he can make out of them.

State employed men would work our convicts under any system, but it does not follow that the same sort of guards would be employed or that the convicts would be worked with the Huxford-Irvin style of brutality. or permitted to be killed after they were entitled to freedom. The assurance that the convicts would be better treated under another system, for example, if they were placed upon the roads, is based upon the fact that they have been better treated in other States which have abolished the lease system, and upon the fact that, with the incentive for private gain lacking, the temptation to abuse and drive would disappear. We hazard the assertion that any one knowing the conditions of the work in the mines, with its dust, damp and danger, would prefer working on the roads in God's fresh air and sunshine. Assuming, for the sake of argument, that only brutal guards could be secured. we submit that the opportunities for brutality and for protection from exposure are far greater in the dark and secret places of a mine than they would be on the public roads.

You further say: "Working convicts on the road, for instance, would be as 'brutal' and profitable as working them on private farms or in lumber camps. We do know that practically every convict in the State who is on a farm or in a lumber camp aspires to be transferred to the coal mines, where the task system prevails, and where every industrious convict may easily earn over-time money to send to his family."

This ipse dixit of yours is interesting, but we may be permitted to respectfully challenge it. If the State worked its convicts on the roads, it would be absent and it would require considerable argument to convince us that the State of Alabama would be as harsh a task master as the records prove some of the private lessees to have been. We may be permitted to inquire on what facts you base your statement that the convicts on the farm and in the camps aspire to be transferred to the coal mines. Granting, only for the sake of argument, that they yearn for the task system of the mines, you will permit us to ask why, in the name of the dignity of the State of Alabama, some task system is not provided for the farms and the camps.

You further ask: "Would 'Citizen' make the convict an idler. a 'gentleman of leisure' and prevent his earning a cent? Are the tax payers of Alabama so eager to put convicts in the lap of luxury that they are willing to go into their pockets for a half million dollars a year to meet the deficit incident upon the rescue of our criminal element from a stern and hard life?"

If anybody in the State of Alabama has ever advocated making the convicts idlers, or gentlemen of leisure, it has escaped our attention. Do you seriously go on record as pretending to believe that there can be no change of the present system without putting the convict in the "lap of luxury?" Is there no middle ground between treating a convict like a beast and treating him like a king?

Having undertaken to answer these questions, we take it that the privilege of asking a question or two may be extended to us. Does the Editor of The Advertiser approve the present convict lease system? Deos he believe that convict labor on the roads would be cheaper than free labor and is there a better use to which the labor of convicts could be put? Would there be as many crippled and diseased convicts in the State hospital, permanent charges upon the State, if they were worked under strict State supervision in the open air? Are the convicts employed in the State's cotton mills and on the State's farms subjected to the abuse that the Huxford-Orvin investigation revealed?

CITIZEN.

TRAGEDY OCCURS IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

Too Much Liquor Causes Fatal Shooting of William Tenney.

Special to The Advertiser.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Dec. 25.—A bloody tragedy was enacted this morning shortly after 5 o'clock at Seloca, in the northern part of the county, about twenty miles from Birmingham, when William Tinney, a miner, 15 years of age, was shot several times and fatally wounded. A. M. Wright, who is about 55 years of age, and who conducts a little store, says that he shot Tinney in self defense.

According to the story of the tragedy told by Baill Bailey, who has been locked up, Wright and his son and Bailey were at the Wright place when Tinney and a friend came there. A quart bottle of liquor was being enjoyed, in fact, almost all of the party were drinking. Bailey says that he and the younger Wright, Lonnie Wright, were playing violin and guitar, when Tinney began using strong language. The elder Wright is said to have told him to desist. Wright says that Tinney drew a knife and attempted to first cut the son, Lonnie Wright, and then made towarsd him with the weapon, when several shots were fired, each taking effect.

At the hospital in Birmingham, to which Tinney was carried, it was announced that there was little hope of recovery. Solicitor Black went to the hospital during this morning and took a dying statement from Tinney.

Yesterday he told the police he spent the night the crime was committed in a Seventeenth street house. Taken to the house by Policemen Tiller and Connell, it was found that the woman whom Clements said he had visited was in the city jail and had been there for several days prior to the night the attack is alleged to have been made on Miss Chenault. Clements could not reconcile his statements with the facts in the case and was in a highly nervous state when taken back to prison.

The finding of a wrench near the scene of the crime, believed by Policemen Tiller and Hardy to be the same which Miss Chenault says she saw in the pocket of her assailant, is considered by those officers to be the strongest link in the chain of circumstantial evidence they are weaving around Clements. When first asked about the wrench, Clements denied that he had ever had one in his pocket and has told several dikerent stories regarding the wrench.

PUBLICITY HELPS BAD CONDITION

Jacksonville, Fla., People Believe There Will Be Less Killing By Policemen Since Facts Are Known.—Chicago Defender Praised.

Special to The Chicago Defender.

Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 25.—The Afro-American citizens of this city believe that the publication of the facts in the cases of the large number of men who have been shot down without just cause by policemen since October will do much good. The publication of their protest to the authorities only became generally known when the Chicago Defender was circulated here a week ago.

To Better Conditions.

A well known citizen voiced the sentiment of the better element when he told the correspondent that there would be a change for the better when the thoughtful class of white people are brought face to face with the fact that their material interests are being affected by such unwarranted killings. That they will unquestionably take steps to put an end to the conditions, which are the cause of them, was the hope of every one.

Smith and Carter Refused Bail.

Smith and Carter mentioned in the protest made application for bail last week. The Afro-American people opposed the granting of their petition and Judge George C. Gibbs, before whom the hearing was held, refused to grant them bail and remanded them for trial February 17.

YOUNG NEGROES SENT TO STATE REFORMATORY

Another Is Given Whipping And Allowed To Go Free, Two Being Sent Off.

Jesse Jones and John Lane, two small negroes, were convicted of burglary in police court Saturday afternoon and sent to the State Reform School at Mt. Meigs. Albert James implicated in the same case, was given a whipping and allowed to go free.

The case of burglary charged against the three was the breaking open of the club house of Capital Heights baseball park Tuesday night. They were arrested Friday by Detective Avant.

KANSAS CITY, MO.

JOURNAL

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NEGRO HIGHWAYMEN BUSY.

Women Report Purses Being Taken and Men Tell of Holdups.

Negro highwaymen and purse snatchers were busy last night between 9 and 10 o'clock in the southeast section of Kansas City. James M. Hannen, 2514 Campbell street, reported to the police that two negroes held him up near Nineteenth and Charlotte streets and robbed him of $5. A. J. Moore, 1621 Oak street, was held up by two negroes near Sixteenth and Oak streets. He was beaten over the head when he attempted to show fight. He was treated at the Emergency hospital before going home.

Miss Julia Smith, 2627 Troost avenue, reported that one of the negroes who approached her near Twenty-ninth street and Troost avenue snatched her handbag containing a ring and $7. Miss Mary Burk, 1223 Brooklyn avenue, was robbed of several dollars by a negro who snatched her handbag near Thirteenth street and Agnes avenue.

Crime—1914

THE CONVICT SYSTEM.

Our convict system is an immitigable and immedicable evil. The only cure is a capital operation. It should be amputated from the body social.

That the State has a moral right to restrain the liberty of a convicted criminal on the theory of preventing further crimes by that criminal is admitted But that it has a right to make profit of the criminal or to punish him as a deterrent to other criminals is unqualifiedly disputed.

What individual citizen would accept gratis the services of a convict because he has been found guilty of the infraction of the law? Yet, in their collective capacity, such citizens do accept them, unthinkingly let us hope.

Let our county which has splendidly exemplified a high type of civic life make itself known and respected the country over by having our next legislature provide for us a parole system of managing our convicts. The writer is not at liberty to divulge the views of a very highly exalted statesman of our commonwealth on this subject and his promise to be of any service to us in accomplishing this. But if the call is made we shall not be left without able assistance in procuring what legislation we need.

A very careful ex-commissioner has stated to the writer that he had demonstrated by very accurate accounting that convict labor is not as efficient nor as cheap as hired labor and that the county can with economy discontinue its employment of convicts on its roads But even if it should lose a profit, the county of Gaston cannot afford to do less than the righteous thing.

If the convict is clearly criminal in his nature he should be restrained. A board of parole commissioners should determine this. If he is not criminal he should be paroled to labor for his dependents, making to a parole board periodic report of his faithfulness and that he is devoting his earnings to the support of his dependent ones.

This is no new scheme. If it is desired by the county the national government and many of the States can furnish statistics that fully justify the parole system.

If this article was intended to take into account the interests of the dependent ones of convicts, it would be urged that the county should pay to such dependent ones a reasonable wage for the labor of the convict. But it is urging only just action with regard to the convict himself. It is absurd to hold that a court of justice—an agency of the State—should adjudge for the State what is denied to an individual petitioner, that it should have more than a reasonable recompense for any injury actually inflicted and a certain restraint of a repetition of such injury. It is peonage in its worst form, for it is unappealable and irremediable, and is obnoxious to every enlightened sentiment.

No man who has observed the workings of our present system will deny that it is most effectually adapted to destroy every worthy impulse in the convict, and brutalizes every one that comes into touch with its brutal scheme, from the judge that pronounces the sentence to the unfortunate man that has accepted the doom of the office of guard

Because of its utter and inexcusable inhumanity let every citizen blessed with a quickened conscience and a righteous civic purpose join with the able representatives that will in all probability speak for us in our next assembly in having our county brought into a more righteous relation to the convict. The present system, not in its administration but in its essence, is so rotten that it stinketh.—Gastonia Gazette.

ERVIN POPE IS SAVED FROM DEATH FOR SIXTH TIME

Gov. O'Neal Grants Respite to

Calhoun County Negro Convicted of Murder by Five Juries

For the sixth time, Ervin Pope, convicted Calhoun County murderer, has been saved from death on the gallows. Governor O'Neal announced last night that he has granted Pope a respite from September 18 to October 2. Pope is a negro who was to have been executed next Friday at Anniston on a charge of killing James McClurkin, a white farmer of Oxford.

Five times Pope has been convicted by a Calhoun County jury on the charge of killing McClurkin. Four times his case has been reversed by the Alabama Supreme Court. When Pope was again convicted in the Anniston City Court several months ago his case was carried to the Supreme Court for the fifth time, but on this occasion the death sentence imposed by the lower court was affirmed.

Pope was sentenced to die on August 18, but the case was carried to the Governor, who was requested to commute the death sentence to one of life imprisonment. The Governor refused to commute the sentence, but granted the negro a respite until September 18.

Last night the Governor announced that he had granted Pope another respite until October 2. This action was taken by the executive because of the fact that the pressure of official business has prevented him from giving the case the consideration it deserves. Teh records in Pope's case are voluminous, and it will take much time to review them.

Pope's case is one of the most remarkable that has ever been heard in the criminal annals of the State. The evidence against him is purely circumstantial, but five juries have imposed the death sentence upon him. Five times a gallows has been erected in the Calhoun County jail, and five times Pope has been saved at the last moment. The action of the Governor last night makes the sixth time that the negro has been saved from impending death through legal action. Pope is now confined in the Jefferson County jail at Birmingham, where he was carried for safe keeping.

CONDEMNED MEN IN FINAL APPEAL

Fate of Erwin Pope and John Ragland, Negroes, Will Be Decided by Governor O'Neal Today

Final disposition of the cases of Ervin Pope, of Calhoun county, and John Ragland, of Morgan county, condemned negro murderers, will be made by Governor O'Neal today. Both men have petitioned the Governor asking that he commute their death sentences to life imprisonment. Both are condemned to be executed next Friday.

Ervin Pope has been five times convicted of the murder of James McLurkin a farmer of Oxford. Four times the Supreme Court reversed the death sentence imposed on him, but the fifth time the case was appealed the Supreme Court affirmed the verdict of the lower court.

Ragland was convicted of killing his wife and sentenced to death.

Yesterday H. V. Cashin, a negro lawyer of Decatur, appeared before the Governor and asked that Ragland's sentence be commuted.

Cashin was a member of the Alabama State Legislature during the "carpet bag days." His son is now a law student at Harvard University and he said yesterday that he and his son will practice law at Birmingham. He is making a hard fight to save the life of Ragland.

Justice Barron

The Journal & Guide

The argument of Justice Barron, his masterly summing-up of the which he had adduced in ... violations of ... have a But if people are honest their desire to keep the races apart, why not show it by clearing out the intolerable conditions of Williams Lane and the Hole-in-the-Wall?

Justice Barron has rendered the city a service that called for great courage and ability, and he has rendered the service in a way that calls for the lasting gratitude of our good citizens.

THE FEE GRABBERS.

Nashville Pilot

We hope and trust that our leading men will get together at an early date to see if some remedy can be found for the relief of the many unfortunate Negroes who are constantly arrested upon the most frivolous pretext by Country Constables, carried before some magistrate and told to "submit and pay the cost."

It is an undeniable fact that laborers are afraid to come to Nashville on account of the fear they have of these watchful minions of the law (?) who seem to watch every avenue of ingress in order to arrest some ignorant Negro.

The average black does not know court procedure and is always too willing to "submit and pay the costs." This is exactly what these sleuths desire. We think the colored business and professional men should form an organization for the protection of their unfortunate fellows. Get together and form some plan whereby these poor devils can avoid being arrested and forced to "submit and pay the costs."

The leading white citizens of Davidson County have already registered some very vehement protest against this species of persecution Mr. W. G. Hirsig, a leading business man of Nashville, gave bond for over twenty Negro laborers whom these officers had pulled out of bed, etc. Mr. Hirsig saw the injustice of these arrests and came to the rescue. The cases were waived to the criminal court and have never been heard of since.

Let the Negroes of Nashville wake up; let them make some effort to help their weaker brother make bond and waive examination, then these fee grabbers will quit pestering the inoffensive black man.

ALL NEGROES DRIVEN FROM TOWN IN IDAHO

Constitution

Boise, Idaho, June 19.—Citizens of Shoshone, Idaho, drove all negroes out of that town last night after Jack Ed-

wards, negro, while resisting arrest on a charge of drunkenness, had shot James May, the town marshal, and E. V. Bower, treasurer of Lincoln county. Bower's wound may prove fatal. The negro was caught today at American Falls and taken back to Shoshone.

A FAIR DEAL IN THE COURTS

Attorney Hawkins Says Negro Must Do More Than Dream of Liberty.

W. Ashbie Hawkins, who conducted the successful legal fight against the former segregation law of Baltimore, delivered an informing address on "The Negro and the Court." He said, in part:

"The Constitution of the United States, the English common law, as it applies to the conditions and needs of the American citizens; the constitutions of all the forty-eight sovereign states comprised in our great nation, the acts of Congress and of the State Legislatures make the bond of union between the humblest citizen and the nation and make the contract between him and our government whereby it engages in exchange for his loyalty, his liberty and pursuit of happiness, to the end that their rights and privileges may be secured and maintained Courts have been instituted and the government has placed them within the reach of every man. The judiciary is one of greatest, if not the greatest, of our trinity of governmental agencies.

"In rendering exact justice to the Negro, courts are not favoring him, but are preserving the nation and preserving this civilization. In the Negro's plea to the courts for justice his plea is simply this: That whatever the means for one man, it be made to mean the same for him. To deprive him of this means works not only harm to him, but sans the foundation of our national existence, and sounds the death knell of democracy among men.

"There is no more crying need in our times than to arouse the Negro from his half century dream of liberty provided by the Emancipation Proclamation, the amendments to the national Constitution, the statutes passed in pursuance thereof, and that secured by allegiance to political party, and have him realize the dangers of legislative, executive and judicial usurpation by such means as segregation and separate car laws, disfranchisement and mob violence."

SURVEY OF STATE PRISON CONDITIONS COMPLETED

Dr. W. H. Oates Compiles Figures and Data in An Exhaustive Report.

The most complete survey of prison conditions in Alabama that has ever been compiled is now in course of preparation in the office of Dr. W. H. Oates, State Prison Inspector. A portion of the report already has gone to the printer, and the Department is working over-time to get the remainder of the "copy" in shape. Both general and local conditions will be reviewed in the report, which will offer many interesting details.

Of especial interest will be the statistical features. The total number of persons held in the county jails of the State during the year will be shown, as will the total number of days served and much other interesting data. The cost to the State and the counties also has been reckoned, and will be embodied in the report. Attention will be directed to the new type of jails being constructed in the State under the direction of the Department. The innovations made by Dr. Oates in jail building have attracted wide interest.

Negro Held for Trial.

Jordan Meadows, the negro who shot Police Officers Bischoff and Maples on the night of June 26, and who was captured in Birmingham and brought back here, was arraigned in the Inferior Criminal Court today and held in $500 bond for assault to murder in two cases.

The Farmers' Society of Equity, Gulf Coast Division, held a meeting in the Battle House this afternoon for the purpose of improving the organization and increasing its membership. Plans were laid for increasing the membership, those being eligible being farmers.

Clay King Morse, indicted for the murder of Carl Friedhoff, brewmaster of the Mobile brewery, on the night of January 29, last, will be arraigned for the second time tomorrow in the City Court, the first hearing resulting in a mistrial. Morse will be represented by Webb and McAlpine and Leigh and Chamberlain, while Attorney C. W. Thompkins will assist the Solicitor.

Editorial Notes

In Atlanta, two colored men of the same name were in jail at the same time, one detained as witness in another case, the other charged with burglary. At the trial the witness was called in and tried for burglary. He protested his innocence but to no avail, the white woman who was robbed identified him as the man and was positive about it. He was found guilty and given a sentence of two years in the penitentiary. After the trial the prisoner continued to protest his innocence, finally upon investigation it was found that the wrong man was tried, now the court will have to set aside its findings against him. The salient point about this is the positive identification of the white woman whose testimony was the main cause of his conviction. This is only a sample case of the no doubt numberless men who are serving time or have been sent to death via gallows or lynchers route by such faulty identification.

PETROGRAD AND---ATLANTA!

An Associated Press report from Petrograd, Russia, offers an interesting comparison between the efficacy of our boasted civilization and the civilization of the country which we, in our superiority, have been pleased to call "darkest" Russia.

At the outbreak of the European war there was a national prohibition of the manufacture and sale of vodka, the national intoxicant, and one of the most brutalizing beverages known to the distiller.

It is officially reported from Petrograd that for the four days leading up to and including Christmas, there was not one arrest for drunkenness. Previously there had been arrests by the hundred, and it had been the custom to declare martial law in order to maintain any sort of safety of life and property in the capital city.

In Atlanta!

For two weeks preceding Christmas there has been a series of burglaries and other evidences of crime.

And on Christmas day, the anniversary of the Prince of Peace, there broke forth the regularly anticipated saturnalia of drunkenness, of murder, of bloodshed, of wild riot.

After this it hardly behooves us to refer pityingly to "darkest" Russia.

The capital of Russia, on Christmas day had a police record clean as a hound's tooth

The capital of enlightened Georgia, with the benefit of decades of inherited traditions of orderliness, with churches right and left—there is piled up a record that would shame the jungle.

Russia teaches us a lesson!

It is told that since the abolition of vodka, in Russia, savings have increased, productiveness has enhanced, poverty has been greatly reduced, and the nation present the spectacle of a giant rehabilitated.

War, of course, is cruel and brutalizing, sapping the strength of a nation and pushing back, often, the hands of the clock.

But war comes and goes, and at least merciful to the extent that it leaves an interval for recuperation.

Alcohol is not that lenient!

So that Russia, redeemed from herself, will, after all, find a compensation in the drain and the horrors of the world war.

As for Petrograd and Atlanta—their respective records for Christmas is a curious contrast in the annals of civilization.

COURTHOUSE IS OPENED BY TRYING WRONG NEGRO

Witness, Instead of Defendant, Is Put on Trial and Convicted.

The first trial in the new million dollar courthouse was the wrong trial. It was a case of mistaken identity. If Will Russell's own lawyer, the star witness against him, and the solicitor-general, including the arresting officer, had known him, it wouldn't have happened.

To begin with, there are two Will Russells. One is held for burglary. The other is detained as a state's witness. The state witness answered when the case of the state vs. Will Russell, the first to be called, was sounded before Judge Ben Hill Wednesday morning.

Mrs. Robert Viewig, of 49 Boulevard Place, looked at Will and said he was certainly the negro who had burglarized her place.

Policeman Griver Fain announced that Will was the negro he arrested for said offense.

Solicitor Hugh Dorsey made an impassioned speech for prosecution, in which he described Will as a bold, bad, vicious burglar who ought to be given the limit.

Attorney Chappellear, counsel for the defense, said Will wasn't as bad and bold and vicious as all that, and, considering this to be his first offense, should be let off lightly.

When Will went to the stand, he vowed he didn't know a thing about it; didn't know his two accusers or his counsel for defense. Then after the jury pronounced him guilty and he was sentenced to two years, it developed that he was the wrong negro.

The other Will Russell, however, will be put on trial at a later day, and the sentence of the one convicted will be reversed.

Grand Rapids, Mich.

NEWS OCT 24 1914

...er of Par... ...s Treatment Tends to Ma... Men Good Citizens.

Judge Alfred E. Souter of Shelby, member of the Michigan Pardon board, has removed to Grand Rapids to reside this winter and has leased apartments on Lyon street, N. E.

Judge Souter was appointed by Governor Ferris in July, and has made several rounds of the state prisons and reformatories.

"The conditions in these places are not as bad as people generally believe," he said. "As far as sanitation is concerned the buildings are in perfect shape, and the prisoners are treated with consideration at all times.

"In Ionia and Jackson schools have been established where those with a desire for education can satisfy it. Some of the prisoners are well educated and take advanced courses but the great majority are not educated and seem to enjoy their studies.

Prison Term Helps Negro.

"We had a big negro at Jackson, a native of Shenandoah, Va., who was so ignorant he could not tell the time of day by the clock. He could neither read nor write, and did not know his own name when he saw it in writing. This man was given a primary course in the three R's and left the prison in a much better position to make a living than before he entered.

"Under the indeterminate sentence law the judge gives a minimum and maximum and merely recommends the length of the sentence. At the expiration of the minimum the prisoner is eligible to parole, and files an application. If his behavior has been good and other circumstances are satisfactory, he is discharged from the prison under the supervision of a first friend or probation officer, such as J. E. Hyde of this city.

Hard Times Affect Paroles.

"When times are hard we hesitate to grant paroles because men are very apt to commit some little offense and be compelled to return and serve several years additional. It is really a kindness to hold them when there is no work available unless they have made arrangements with friends for employment immediately after their liberation.

"But the prisoners have a good time. They have social meetings and religious meetings and everything possible is done to make them good citizens."

Judge Souter is the father of H. Dale Souter, recently appointed U. S. assistant district attorney.

TWO BROTHERS BEATEN AND ROBBED BY BLACKS

Then Mules and Wagon Are Stolen While Victims Are Having Wounds Dressed.

When John Howe, a farmer living about 15 miles from Atlanta, toward Austell, Ga., and his brother, R. A. Howe, of 37 Elmet street, rested their team of mules at a water trough last night in Battle Hill, while returning to the former's home, three burly negroes assaulted them, beating them with clubs over their heads until they fell from their wagon unconscious.

The negro thugs robbed them of every cent they had in their pockets, amounting to about $7, and left them lying beside the road.

When they regained consciousness they drove to town to the Grady hospital, where they had their wounds dressed.

Their already eventful evening did not end with this misfortune, however, for while they were in the hospital some one stole their mules and wagon, which was loaded with a week's groceries.

Late last night, before they had left police headquarters, a negro drove up with the stolen wagon, saying that some other negroes had left the wagon in his front yard. The wagon was inspected, and it was found that all the groceries had been removed by the thieves.

Crime—1914

RECKLESSNESS OF OUR POLICE.

THE RESPECT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT depends solely upon the treatment of the different races that constitute our cosmopolitan city. Whenever unfairness, partiality and unlawful means are directed against any particular race the thundering howl of dissatisfaction and discontent is passed from ear to ear. The law directs that each and every citizen should assist in case of dire need, the police, that peace and order may prevail. The unfortunate affair of a lawless man killing a policeman is sincerely deplored. The storming stealth of the culprit from Twenty-sixth to Thirty-eighth street via the alley route was unfortunately successful. That peaceful entry could have been made there is no doubt, had calm, dispassionate minds directed the assault, instead of excited, prejudiced heads gaining control and ordering reckless and promiscuous shooting, which endangered innocent lives and demonstrated absolute disrespect for the homes of black people. Why so reckless an alternative, thou brother of the blue coat, star and club? You must not lose sight of the fact that you are the humble servant of the people, paid and sworn to protect against, and not incite crime. We cannot conceive that you would have attacked Lake Shore Drive residences likewise. The officer in charge needs the bulk of censure. He is solely responsible for the riddling of this residence with bullets without the slightest investigation but simply because a desperate man had been cornered and driven to bay.

This particular morning gave the onlooker a pitiable sight to behold—half-nude women and men wrapped in blankets and ushered in the free-ride van of disgrace, merely because they were residents of a house temporarily sought by a desperate man taking forceful refuge.

As we again say, emphatically so, we honestly deplore the action of the desperado, yet we cannot find an angle of excuse to satisfy fair reasoning why the police department should use such heinous forms of attack upon this residence of black people. We cannot condone the outrage. The home of a man is his castle says Blackstone, sacred against entry of this kind and it ought not to be tolerated. To put color and tone to the climax, after this unfortunate man had surrendered, throwing his gun into the street with wounded hands in mid-air, we see a brave bluecoat leveling his gun to commit a deliberate murder, were it not that a more thoughtful mind struck upward the barrel, which directed a wild report. The possibilities are we would have read in great big headlines—A Policeman Shot Man in Self Defense!

Recently the city of New York has given to the world the corrupt methods, the sordid intrigues and vicious attacks of a police department. The city of Chicago is on the verge of similar exposures, the quicker the better; all that is needed is concertive action in dethroning this autocrat of the blue coat, star and club.

DRIVE OUT THE BULLIES AND LOAFERS.

THE DEFENDER IS STILL IN THE FIGHT for social and moral progress and asks the co-operation of the people of this city and everywhere in its support of law and order. There can be no justice without law or certain well defined principles for the conduct of all.

We are unalterably opposed to the laxity of the law, which will tolerate within the commonwealth of Chicago or anywhere that class of citizens who are morally depraved and resort to the crime of murder. That the manifestation of law is lacking cannot be doubted when we find within peaceful and happy communities a class of men who because of their freedom have developed a passion for murder and wrong doing.

Our stand for law and order places us in the position where we must raise a voice in protest against lawlessness and crime.

In accepting such a position we are opposed to evil doers, regardless of whoever they may be. And we plead for the support of the commonwealth as a body in a determined stand against crime.

Let the guilty one bear the burden of his unhappy lot. Let him pay in compensation that which is most precious to him—perhaps his life. Let virtue and patriotism remain the cardinals of our social compact, until every man guilty of crime shall be brought to the bar of justice.

We cannot plead a man's color as an extenuating circumstance for his misdeed, because that would be an admission of justification of wrong, while there is none.

Now comes the time for thoughtful consideration. There is a lawless element which comes within our midst and from this class the cloud of shame overshadows us.

What are we going to do about it? We are going to stop it. And in this we ask the co-operation of YOU.

Unfortunately the South has furnished us with this class, growing up under a system of abuses almost unbelievable. There is a large Afro-American population there and the question of misdirected energy finds its answer in shameless misdeeds and crimes committed by them in another state.

In other words the crimes committed recently, shocking and brutal, by Afro-Americans in Chicago, are the acts of the immigrants from the Southland.

The case of Simon Hogan and others equally infamous are the product of the seed sown in the far-off land of Jimcrowism.

Lawless passion shall be curbed by the firm hand of the law. Vigilance of the police must be increased as we are being daily supplied with outside riffraff who seek our sunshine of happiness and who are unable to appreciate it.

We ask no quarter for these malefactors of the law, rowdies, gun-carrying bullies and other worthless characters who infest our highways and hope that in the future the courts will give none.

Police vigilance should be doubled in our thickly populated neighborhoods not only to prevent crime, but to stop its instigation. In our plea for law and order we ask that the law of vagrancy be enforced and every undesirable, worthless character be driven from our midst.

This is a serious question to every law abiding citizen of this

SHOT FROM AMBUSH

WM. TURNER HORRIBLY MURDERED BY ONE ALBERT HALL WHO SHOT HIM TO DEATH.

SLAYER CAPTURED

Sheriff Captures Murderer and Lands Him Safely in County Jail—Local Mention.

Marshall, Tex., Aug. 19.—One of the most distardly murders ever occurred in Harrison County was when Albert Hall laid in ambush and shot to death Wm. Turner, known as and called "Good Nuf." The only cause assigned was that he intended robbery. Turner was one of our very best citizens, well liked by every one that knew him. The murder at one time was thought to be shrouded in mystery but Sheriff Saunders soon ran the murderer down and now has him safe in the county jail. The West Texas Association, Ministers' Annual Conference and Sunday School Convention and Womans' Missionary Society met at Pleasant Hill Freewill Baptist Church from August 11-16, inclusive, with much success. Next meeting will be with Randell Chapel C. M. E. Church, Dallas, Texas, August, 1915; Rev. R. C. Chamberlain, moderator; Mrs. Susa Merida, secretary. Mr. W. T. Worsham lies very sick at Mrs. C. V. McNair's residence. Mrs. Olevia L. Piercy, wife of Mr. Wm. Pirce, our fellow townsman, died at her residence after a long illness; funeral attended from the residence; laid to rest in the Oak Wood cemetery. Mrs. A. L. Wilson returned from the country. Mr. Haywood Roberts lies very sick at his home.

JEFFERSON CORONER TO BEGIN HIS INVESTIGATION

Juries Will Be Organized As Soon As the City Detectives Make Their Report.

Advertiser 7-13-14

Special to The Advertiser.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., July 12.—Cor-

oner Spain has announced that as quickly as the city detectives and other officers working on some of the murder mysteries report, juries will be organized and full investigations made.

Among the cases on the coroner's docket for investigation which has been hanging fire for several weeks is that of the assassination of Moses Houlihan, a young machinist, who was shot and killed while taking a bucket of beer to his home. This was one of the mysterious assassinations which troubled the authorities here for a while. Two men are in jail under suspicion in connection with the killing, though both of them positively deny knowing anything of the case.

The coroner may be called upon to make an investigation into the drowning of Ruth Hinds, the 14-year-old girl who lost her life while in wading with a number of friends at Herd's Shoals, on the Warrior River, and for which drowning two young men, brothers, Charlie and Pete Woods, were arrested by the city detectives last night. Several other cases are on the coroner's docket and today he said he could not tell what might happen before tomorrow.

CONVICTED 5 TIMES AND SENTENCED TO BE HUNG

But Gov. O'Neal of Alabama Commutes Sentence to Life Imprisonment

INNOCENCE OF POPE SHOWN

Bore Good Reputation for Fifty Years but Hundreds of Letters and Petitions to Governor Opposed Executive Clemency – No Motive for Crime Shown

The New York Age

Special to THE NEW YORK AGE.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Nov. 24.—Convicted five times on the charge of murder in the first degree, four times the Supreme Court granted Ervin Pope of Anniston a new trial. After the fifth conviction, Governor Emmett O'Neal, who had given much patient study and investigation to the case, has commuted the sentence to life imprisonment.

This is the most celebrated case in Alabama. Pope was convicted five times in the Anniston city court and each time his punishment was fixed at the maximum penalty. Four times the verdict was set aside and a new trial granted on appeal to the Supreme Court. Sentence was framed by this tribunal after the fifth conviction. The Governor devoted much patient study to the case and was convinced of the innocence of Pope, at least sufficiently to commute his sentence of life imprisonment.

Blood Stained Shoes in Evidence.

What Governor O'Neal regarded as the most incriminating link in the State's chain of circumstantial evidence was the fact that a pair of blood-stained shoes, bearing a particle of human skin, had been found in concealment under an outhouse on Pope's premises, and his statement deals at length with seeming flaws in the State's proof that the stains on the shoes were of human blood, and that the shoes had been worn by the defendant.

The Governor states that he had the shoes sent to Dr. B. B. Ross, State chemist at Auburn, for examination, and Dr. Ross reported that the laboratory examinations failed to give any positive indications as to the identity of the supposed stains. It then occurred to the Governor that it would be well to obtain some circumstantial proof of the implication that the shoes had been worn by Pope. He had them sent to Birmingham, where Pope was in jail, and had J. D. Collins, a shoe merchant, take the shoes to the jail and try them on Pope's feet.

The Governor's Statement.

Mr. Collins testified in reporting to the Governor that the shoes were over two sizes larger than the foot of the defendant. One of the shoes also bore evidence that its wearer had a large bunion or protuberance on his foot; there was no such protuberance on either foot of the defendant, Mr. Collins reported. He gave it as his opinion that the shoes had not been broken, shaped or worn by Pope.

The Governor, in announcing his decision, concluded his statement as follows:

"It is claimed that I should not interfere because the defendant has been convicted by five different juries in Calhoun County and sentenced to death. It should also be remembered, however, that four times this case has been reversed for errors prejudicial to the defendant, and the sole question for me to consider is not whether the weight of public opinion demands the execution of the defendant, but whether under all the facts and circumstances of the case I should exercise my constitutional power to commute the sentence of death to life imprisonment. The defendant is a Negro, and the record shows that he was in good circumstances, financially, at the time of the alleged commission of the crime, for a member of his race. It was showed that he owned a farm and his merchant was ready to advance him all the supplies that he might require in the cultivation of his land. There is absolutely nothing in the record showing that for the fifty years or more of his life that he had been convicted of crime or bore a bad reputation.

"The fact that there was no motive by reason of poverty or need for him to commit the crime is a strong circumstance in his favor. After the first few trials his property was exhausted in the payment of his debts and attorney's fees, and during the last trials of his case he was defended by counsel appointed by the Court.

The defendant has but few friends and no influence and arrayed against him is a very strong and powerful public sentiment as established by the numerous petitions and letters on file in this office opposing executive clemency. He is, however, a citizen of Alabama, and however humble, or odious, or obscure, is entitled to the protection of the law."

NEW RULES GOVERNING TRUSTIES ARE PUBLISHED

Age-Herald 1-13-14

Convicts Must Serve Certain Proportion Of Sentence Before Being Given Privileges.

New rules for trustes at the State prison and convict camps have been adapted by the State Convict Board, and have been published in cardboard form. These card boards will be posted at the various camps and prisons. The rules were adopted at a meeting of the board which was attended by Hartwell Douglass, President, Dr. J. M. Mastin and Len F. Greer, Association members and Governor O'Neal.

Hereafter no convicts will be made "trusties" until they have served a certain length of time in proportion to the length of the sentence. Convicts sentenced to terms longer than ten years must serve two years before being allowed the privileges accorded trusties. Convicts under sentence from five to ten years must one year, and convicts under sentence from one to five years must serve six months before they are permitted to be made trusties.

Wardens who desire to have any convicts made trusties must forward to the State Convict Board certain information concerning the convict's offense, his conduct, character and a short biographical sketch. Uniforms must be worn by trusties the description of which appear in the new rules.

Convicts who are leased out and who become trusties will not be permitted to go at large during their sentence. No warden will be permitted to make a convict a trusty, or to give him his liberty without the approval of the State Convict Board.

J. C. Hodges, a street car conductor on the South Jackson Street line, shot and killed Joseph Ingersoll (colored) a few days ago. The shooting occurred at corner of Jackson and High Streets, and when Hodges was arrested was let out under bond. Before the shooting the Negro his mind was made up as to what his defense would be. When asked why he shot the Negro, he said: "I saw him reach for his gun," in other words, "I saw him put his hand right down into his hip-pocket, and I shot in self-defense." Two white men are under arrest in Montgomery County (Harry McCord, Deputy Sheriff, and J. C. Hodges), for shooting Negroes, and both of them offer as a defense the old reliable theory that they "Saw the Negro put his hand into his hip-pocket."

The Colored American 1/17/14

A white man who shoots a Negro in the back four times is usually safe if he tells the court in Alabama that he saw the Negro put his hand into his hip-pocket. One hundred years from now the white people of Alabama will look back with shame upon the injustice meted out to Negroes in the courts and before the law.

The City Commissioners give the street car conductors on the South Jackson line permission to carry pistols, and deny them this right on all lines in the city largely patronized by whites. This notion is an old relic of slavery which believes that the Negro must be cuffed and kicked around and kept down at the point of a gun. In this case it makes the conductors on these lines largely patronized by Negroes, vicious and ready to shoot. Negroes who patronize these lines are not safe, and this condition will not only make the conductors lawless, but create a spirit of lawlessness in many colored men who will have to travel that way.

A Deputy Sheriff, a street car conductor and an ignorant Greek are all under charges for shooting Negroes, and all of them say they saw the Negro put his hand into his hip-pocket. It is time for those who administer the law in this community to wake up and call a halt.

NEGRO STEALS KISS FROM WHITE GIRLS

Advertiser 3-5-14

California White Women Incensed at Judge for Sentencing Negro to Thirty Years' Imprisonment

LOS ANGELES, CAL., March 4.—Protests threats of recall and denunciation poured in today on Judge Willis, of the Criminal Department of the Superior Court, because he sentenced to thirty years imprisonment Charles Guyton, a young negro, convicted of highway robbery, although he stole only a white girl's kiss.

Deputations of white women visited the judge today to demand that action be tawen to save Guyton from such severe punishment. Telephone messages informed him that petitions were being prepared for his recall. Other women called in person to say that steps would be taken to procure a pardon from the Governor.

Judge Willis explained that the negro had been convicted of highway robbery. He had taken a dime from the white girl, although he gave it back after he kissed her and he had subjected six other young white women to similar treatment, besides criminally attacking two negro girls.

The deputation of women visited the district attorney to learn what procedure was ncesesary to impeach the judge or otherwise remove him from office.

TOO MANY MURDERS HAVE GONE UNPUNISHED

Courier-Journal 4-8-14

JUDGE MOSS CHARGES GRAND JURY IN WARREN COUNTY.

Bowling Green, Ky., April 7.—(Special.)—One of the strongest charges delivered to a grand jury here in recent years was that delivered by Judge Moss this morning, in which he laid particular stress on the several murders committed in this county within the last year and for which no one has ever been punished. Judge Moss declared that such conditions were appalling and that some steps should be taken toward the punishment of the murderers.

Judge Moss also ordered investigation into lotteries alleged to be operated in drug stores.

The criminal term of Circuit Court which has just begun, has 152 cases on docket and is one of the largest of recent years.

DRUNKEN NEGROES MAKE ATTACK ON PEDESTRIANS

Constitution 9-7-14

At 9:30 o'clock Sunday evening three gangs of drinking negroes ran amuck in different parts of the city, frightening pedestrians and holding up individuals.

As W. Y. Freeman, of 946 DeKalb avenue, was crossing the Edgewood avenue bridge, he was suddenly approached by two negroes and told to hold up his hands. He supposed their intention was robbery. Without provocation, one of the thugs fired at Freeman point blank. No injuries, however, were inflicted. After the shooting they fled.

Will Chapman, colored, pulled his gun on an old negro woman at the corner of Washington street and Woodward avenue. Mr. and Mrs. Williamson, who have a store nearby, shouted at the boy. He immediately fired at them. All his shots, however, went wild.

When an officer arrived the negro was seen standing in his front door, at the rear of 170 Washington. He sought an exit by a back window, but was captured near his kitchen door. He was crazed by an excess of liquor.

An unidentified negro was killed in a drunken squabble on the Mitchell street viaduct about the same time last evening. Lillie Mills, a colored girl who was passing, states that the murder occurred after a quarrel over some whisky. Few words had been spoken, when John Jackson, of 93 Haynes, drew an opened knife and stabbed his victim three times in the throat. Later he was captured.

Crime — 1914

POLICE COURTS AND THE PEOPLE.

The Republic struck a popular chord in its editorial on the necessity of more learning and dignity in the administration of affairs in Police and Justice Courts.

There is no other tribunal that affects the liberty of more people than our Police Courts, and certainly none that affect the relations of landlord and tenant more than our Justice of the Peace Courts.

Lawyers, as a rule, are prone to look with indifference upon a case in a Police or Justice Court, notwithstanding that the liberty and property of the defendants are placed in jeopardy. There is real tragedy in many cases that are placed on the docket of the Police Courts, though they are treated as jokes by some Judges and Prosecuting Attorneys. Nothing is more precious to a man or woman than their liberty, and the trial of causes in Police Courts should be surrounded with the same dignity and spirit of absolute justice, as obtains in Courts of Record. The same principles are involved, and the liberty of the people should be as sacred in a Police Court, as in a higher Court, and the same high ideals of honor and dignity should actuate Police Court Justices and Prosecuting Attorneys. That, knowledge akin to the "wisdom of Solomon" is very often necessary in a Judge of the Police Court, is attested by the fact that family and neighborhood difficulties are taken there to be adjusted, which requires the "rule of reason" in addition to the rules of legal evidence.

Police Court Justices should be available material for Circuit Court Judges, and their record on the bench of a Police Court should count either for, or against them in all their future aspirations.

CHECKING CRIME.

The Chicago Defender 5-9-'14.

ATTENTION HAS BEEN CALLED to the promiscuous carrying of firearms and other deadly weapons by irresponsible persons, or in fact by anyone who has not the authority. Here of late there has been a regular epidemic of shooting and cutting scrapes that has kept the police and hospitals busy. Among a certain class the slightest quarrel is provocation enough for the drawing of a gun or the slashing of an individual with a razor. The police of late have made fair progress in checking the robbers and hold-up men, and it is becoming comparatively safe to be on the streets at night without a squad of bluecoats to protect you. The recent wave of reform that swept over Chicago cleared the atmosphere materially along certain lines. But there is much yet to do and the prime and uppermost thing is to protect human life. Unless offenders are summarily dealt with, arrested and placed behind prison bars, we will continue to have these crimes committed right under our very eyes. It is argued that it is the ignorant, roaming, worthless class who are responsible for this state of things. Suppose it is true, must we sit idly by and because they have nothing to lose, allow them to drag us down in the mire with them? Unlike other races, we are judged by the few and not by the masses, knowing that it behooves us to be the first to detect and turn over to justice offenders of our race. For a time the police searched suspicious looking characters and if they found firearms upon their persons, locked them up and gave them an opportunity to explain next morning to the judge. It may have been embarrassing to a few innocent people to submit to being searched, but when they knew it was for the good of the community they should be glad to prove their innocence. We are interested especially in the section of the city known as the "Black Belt." Here crime is on the increase. If there are not enough officers detailed to crush it out, let us have more officers, and let those officers be race men, as they alone are familiar with the traits and habits of the people and would therefore prove more valuable representatives of the law. Let us have a general house-cleaning.

HAS GOVERNOR BLEASE SEEN THE LIGHT.

The Chicago Defender 11/28/14

GOVERNOR COLE BLEASE IS NOTHING IF NOT VERSATILE. To the question, "Why did you pardon one thousand Afro-Americans from your penitentiary?" He replied: "I pardoned them because they often fail to get justice at the white man's court house. I am for justice for the Negro, although strenuously opposing social equality. Many are sent to the penitentiary merely because they do not have influential friends to keep them out. Rich offenders get leniency and mercy in the courts." In Governor Blease we find a human enigma, one that is never fully solved. Just when the right answer seems at hand a new complication arises and a start all over must be made. There are few things in the category of injustice that have not been worked out and on the Afro-American residing in the state that he is supposed to represent as head. This wholesale pardoning was a matter of "justice"—perhaps there is a different definition for the word justice than Webster gives. What of the lynchings, Jim crow laws, mob rule and the like? Can a sane man justify these things? The unpopular governor has ridden into fame and fortune for the last time on the back of the unfortunate Afro-American; the people of his own state have sealed his doom; rather late, but better late than never. If among these thousand prisoners pardoned there were some who were punished unjustly, some who were innocent, we are glad they were set free, regardless of the motive that prompted the pardoner's action. On the other hand we are just as anxious that the criminal class among us be punished as other races are that their criminal class receive their just deserts. The country has long since known the peculiar way South Carolina has of delivering justice but this is the first time that its chief executive has formally made the indictment. We haven't heard officially whether Governor Blease has religion or is sick unto death, but we do know something is decidedly wrong somewhere. Let us pray.

THE "TIMES" AND THE FRANK CASE.

The New York Age 11/19/12

Speaking of the action of the Supreme Court of Georgia in refusing to set aside the verdict of the jury which convicted Leo Frank of the murder of Mary Phagan in Atlanta, the New York "Times" declares there is the gravest doubt of Frank's guilt. And why? Because he, a white man, was convicted in a southern city by a white jury, "on the evidence of a wretched degenerate Negro," as the "Times" phrases it.

The Negro Conley, who was tried first and sentenced to the state penitentiary for complicity in the crime, was the principal witness against Frank. But the "Times" says further: "All the antecedent probabilities, reasoning from the characters of the two men, tend to confirm the belief that Conley was guilty, Frank innocent." The "Times" would therefore have its readers believe that "a wretched, degenerate Negro" has fastened his crime upon a poor, innocent, cultured white man.

Negro Enforcement of Law

The Broad Ax 12/19/14

One of the problems which the Negro and the South have to face is the prevalence of the moral laxity and in certain parts of the towns of a widespread spirit of lawlessness. In many cases the indictment is brought in against the white man that he is guilty of innumerable lynchings and outrages in defiance of the law, and that he frequently exercises no discriminating justice even in the very courts of law themselves. Against the Negro the charge is brought of certain brutal assaults on virtue, an alarming number of murders, and a proneness to petty thievery exercised in all possible ways and forms. The people of both races are becoming gradually sensitive to this sweeping arraignment of their so-called "lawlessness," and would gladly welcome any remedy which might place them in a more enviable light in the eyes of the world.

Many think the situation would be relieved by Negro participation in the enforcement of the law, that is, by Negro service under the executive department of the department of the state.

The sense of order which comes to a people enforcing the law for itself is one of the boons of democratic government. This effect a system of colored police would probably have upon the Negro mind. These Negro offi-

cials would, little by little, be their embodimens of the principles of law and order, organize Negro public opinion against such atrocious crimes as rape and murder, and would make the shame of a small thieft be more sensible than is the prevailing case now.

The city of Seattle has 315 licensed places where liquors are sold. Saloon, cafes, hotels. With few exceptions the Japanese are employed in these places with the exclusion of the colored man who for years considered such places as his own and relied on them to make a livelyhood. In all other parts of the country he has proven himself efficient, and was not intruded on; lately he has taken cognizance of the trend of his treatment in this city and feels sure that those who have excluded him for the Japanese will need his assistance on the 3rd of november, when the question comes up as to whether Washington will remain wet or go dry. With a voting strength of 6,800 and his present feeling it is doubtful which way he will go.

Negroes Under Arrest Charged With Brutally Beating White Woman

Will Greer, a negro, and his wife are held in Fulton tower charged with beating Mrs. Oscar Head, wife of a rural mail carrier who lives on the Adamsville road. They were arrested Saturday morning shortly after the incident by County Officers Carter, Peek and Jackson.

The negroes, according to Officer Jackson, were moving their household effects past the home of Mr. Corbett, next door neighbor to Mrs. Head, Saturday morning, when they saw in the Corbett yard Mrs. Head, who earlier in the week had the negroes arrested on charges of chicken stealing. They were tenants of the Head property. When Mrs. Head demanded the rent, says the officer, they began to abuse her, and finally the negro man held her while the negro woman struck her with a rock.

F. M. Hughes, who stated that he is attorney for the negroes, appeared at The Constitution office Saturday night, and stated that this version is not correct, that the negroes who were tenants of the Heads were moving to his property, and that they had a hog belonging to him, which, when Mrs. Head saw it, she declared had been stolen, and tried to take it away from the negroes. In an ensuing scuffle, he avers, Mrs. Head fell to the ground, but he claims she was not struck.

JUDGE FRANK CARTER.

In Superior Court Starts an Investigation that May Put an End to Pasquotank County's Most Disgraceful Institution.

(The Independent, Elizabeth City)

An investigation of the conduct of the Pasquotank County convict camp or chain gang, started by Judge Frank Carter in the Superior Court of this county Tuesday afternoon has already verified the charges repeatedly made by this newspaper, and more. Judge Carter's investigation had to be halted yesterday morning to wait upon the report of the Southern Express Co. and the Norfolk Southern Rail Road who have been ordered to show the number of shipments of liquor received by the officers and guards of the chain gang from April 1913 to date. The investigation will be resumed at noon Saturday. Sensational developments are expected.

The evidence already secured by Judge Carter, and the investigation only begun, indicates that the condition of the convicts and the brutality of their guards is even worse than The Independent had suspected. The evidence so far shows:

1. Excessive drinking upon the part of the guards while on duty; meaning that the convicts are not infrequently in the hands of irresponsible drunks armed with guns. A guard may shoot a convict upon provocation. It doesn't take much to provoke a brute under the influence of liquor. One case of a convict being shot by a guard has already cost the county hundreds of dollars.

2. Convicts are often illegally whipped when the Supreme Court has specifically ruled that to whip a convict is an assault and the guard who whips a convict is amenable to law. Whipping convicts seems to have been a pleasurable pastime with chain gang guards and none has ever been called to account for it. Many convicts carry marks of whippings that may never heal.

3. Many convicts are shackled with heavy irons. The irons work into the flesh of their ankles, producing hideous running sores. These sores never heal because the irons are never removed.

4. Convicts who have rebelled against such inhuman treatment have had iron collars padlocked around their necks and chained to the ground. This practice may have been discontinued within the past few weeks.

The purpose of Judge Carter's investigation is to determine whether the Pasquotank chain gang is a fit place to which to sentence criminals. Convicts from many counties are sent to the Pasquotank Camp, the counties preferring this because it saves them the expense of keeping their convicts in jail. Conditions so far revealed are so bad that one Negro sentenced to six months imprisonment this week by Judge Carter was ordered to jail. The county must feed this Negro but it must not work him on the chain gang.

MAY END THE SYSTEM

Just what the result of this investigation may bring forth no one knows. It may mean bills of indictment for the guards, for their Chief Frank Weeks and for the members of the Board of County Commissioners who have permitted these conditions to exist. It will in all probability result in ending the chain gang in Pasquotank County. It seems almost certain that Judge Carter will not sentence any more criminals from any county to work on this gang. Other judges will no doubt be influenced by Judge Carter's action. This would mean that the convict camp would automatically go out of existence for want of convicts. The guards taking fright have resigned. The guards are Bill Harris, Jim Cartwright and Jim Scott. The boss of the gang is Frank Weeks. The man above Weeks is Eugene V. Scott, Road Master, member of the County Commissioners.

The Chairman of the Board of Commissioners is Geo. M. Scott, Mr Scott has always opposed Weeks and his methods, but he admitted to Judge Carter Tuesday that he didn't know the actual conditions of the convicts.

"There are many things in this county you don't know Mr. Scott; there are many things that you ought to know; I am convinced that you have been very remiss in your duties." Mr. Scott winced under the rebuke.

There is no mistaking Judge Carter's determination to go to the bottom of things and punish somebody for the horrible state of affairs that has existed for years in this county without a protest from county officials, from the churches, or from any one in fact except The Independent alone. The Pasquotank county chain gang has long been a damning shame to this community. We build churches in China and go abroad seeking heathen who need spiritual pap. And here at our very doors human beings rot in chains, are flogged till they bleed and carry marks for life; and Christians comfortably disposed among the pews of their churches sing of the "Sweet bye-and-bye" while the brutal keepers of the helpless convicts play cards and drink cheap liquor.

It is no economic motive prompting Judge Carter in this investigation. The little Judge doesn't care a rap whether the convicts earn their keep building roads, or not. It isn't the economic, it is the humane asset that interests him. He says: "The fact that a man is a negro and a criminal does not remove his human status. People need not think that because a man is black and in prison that he has no rights which white men are bound to respect. We are not going to have the horrors of the institution of slavery perpetuated here in North Carolina. The time will come in this state when the North Carolina chain gang system will be as severely reprobated as slavery was."

Judge Carter in his charge to the grand jury Monday morning laid especial emphasis upon the duty of the jurors to investigate the condition of the county jail and the chain gang. Judge Carter did not know at that time that conditions on the chain gang in Pasquotank County were bad. As a matter of fact, no complaints against the local chain gang had at that time reached Judge Carter's ears. Complaints did reach him however, later in the day.

The following morning Judge Carter started the investigation by ordering the sheriff to have every convict in the county brought into court at 2:30 o'clock Tuesday afternoon. Judge Carter ordered that the convicts be brought in just as they were, in their convict clothes and irons.

A miserable picture was presented to the court Tuesday afternoon when the chain gang filed into court. They didn't file in either; they hobbled and limped in. The clank and clatter of their chains sounded so out of place in a so called "temple of justice."

"An investigation of this sort is very difficult," said the judge. "A convict camp is a close corporation. The convict is at the mercy of his keepers. A convict could not be expected to tell the whole truth about a cruel keeper in open court, because he would fear punishment at the hands of that keeper when he returned to camp. I am therefore going to make it possible for these men to testify without fear of being punished for anything they may tell me. I shall take them in a room one by one. I will have no one with me in that room but the Court stenographer. We will not ask any man his name. The testimony of these men will then be arranged, not in the order in which the men came into the room, but in irregular order so that no one can by any possible means know what any man has told."

"When I get through with these men," said Judge Carter, "I shall know the truth in a general way. There is no way in which these men can agree upon any falsehood to tell me and I have had enough experience with witnesses to judge when men are telling the truth."

The examination of the convicts one by one consumed more than two hours. When Judge Carter had examined the last of the convicts and returned to the bench, he appeared livid with nausea and indignation. "I have seen enough," he said. "It makes my flesh quiver."

BATTON VS. THE NEGRO.

It is very strange that many members of the police force continue to use their battons upon the heads of prisoners, and more especially the Negroes. Now, some of the most dangerous individuals in this community are arrested by colored officers; very seldom are any of these men brought in with broken skulls or broken ribs. The white officer, who appears in court with colored prisoners in such a condition invariably places a charge of assault against him. Many of those new officers appointed on the force are from Virginia or elsewhere, who believe in using their batton on a colored man's head. In many instances there is no necessity of using the batton. There has only been one case where a colored officer had to go to the extreme, and that was when his life was in danger. He then had to kill in self defense. Colored officers on the force have made good records. They deserve to be promoted, when an opportunity is afforded. It is believed that Commissioner Siddons, who has charge of the police department, will see to it that this brutality resorted to is stopped. He will also see that colored citizens get a fair show in the police department, notwithstanding the opposition of the petty subordinates.

Some months ago a new experiment in the management of convicts was inaugurated in this State. Groups of convicts were set to building roads and were put on their honor. That is to say, they were practically left to work without guards. This experiment was tried with white convicts. They are paid $15 per month, one-half of which goes to their families and the other half to the State.

Just why no Negro convicts were put on their honor does not appear, unless the implication is that Negro convicts have no honor so far as can be discovered. We were led to think that the white convicts had a monopoly of that rare article.

The fact that a dozen or more convicts have taken their "honor" and decamped with it, is going to make it mighty difficult for some of us to continue to believe that all of it resides in one race!

Crime—1914

Why Be A Convict?

Often our attention is called to the brutality often found in Negro convict camps; and men grow excited over the horrible tales which sometimes are told of conditions under which these misguided unfortunates pay society's imposed penalties for crime.

That bitter outrages and inhumanities occur in these camps, no thoughtful persons who read will deny; but why should a Negro be a convict? Sometimes it is unavoidable; but why a Negro knowing of these things in advance should go bravely on and cast his lot with those who work under guard, walk by chain-lengths, eat in misery, sleep under guard, obey under the lash, and live without hope is hard for any one to see.

Why should Negroes, of all people, ever permit themselves to violate laws and become convicts? Why? Why? Why? and again, Why?—The Negro Farmer.

The question is a knotty one and almost defies answering. Every Negro knows or should know, that when he gets into the toils of the laws of this country he stands about as much chance for safety as a pheasant would have in hades. And with all this starring him in the face, the Negro is as inevitably drawn to court as a moth is to a lighted candle. The shrewd, brainy criminal goes to pieces because he errs in reasoning—his logic is at fault. But the Negro who despite of all that he is up against voluntarily goes into crime, cannot be said to do any sort of reasoning at all. He has lost his instinct without having acquired the ability to reason even a little bit. But after all, is it not true that the Negro's tendency to crime—numerous petty crimes that make him the best "pickings" on earth for peace officers and lawyers—is due to the fact that he is a creature moved by impulse alone? That he is not reflective enough to stop and count up the cost! It has been roughly estimated that we spend $490,000 annually in the South for court costs and lawyers' fees, in small offenses alone. Who will deliver us from this "body of death?"

CONSTABLE'S SENTENCE AFFIRMED IN DECISION

Sears Must Serve Three Years and Half For Shooting Negro in City Court Room

Advertiser 5-23-14

The State Court of Appeals yesterday affirmed the sentence of three and one-half years imposed on Robert L. Sears, County Constable, by the Montgomery City Court. Sears was convicted on a charge of shooting Will Smith, a negro, last July. Sears shot Smith just as Smith was standing up in the court room of the City Court to receive his discharge on a charge of shooting with intent to murder.

The shooting of Smith by Sears created a sensation in Montgomery. The negro was shot while court was in session and after a jury had returned to give a verdict in a charge upon which the negro Smith was being tried.

MAGICIAN GUILTY; GETS THREE YEARS

Edward Marshall, Alias Edward Rhynata, Sentenced for Shooting at Negro Bank Cashier.

Constitution 6-19-14

Edward Marshall, alias Edward Rhynata, who, it is alleged, attempted to rob the Atlanta States Savings bank, was found guilty yesterday afternoon before Judge Price Edwards in Fulton county superior court on the charge of shooting at J. C. Ross, the negro cashier.

He was sentenced to three years in the penitentiary. His pretty wife, who was with him at the time of his arrest and who was his assistant in the Rhynata vaudeville act, was in the courtroom when the sentence was delivered. There was an affecting scene between husband and wife.

Marshall had pleaded not guilty. He had been identified by various witnesses, including J. C. Ross, negro cashier of the bank which the robber had attempted to plunder. Ross had been fired upon at the time of the robbery and was struck a severe blow across the head.

FIFTEEN MEN KILLED BY JACKSONVILLE POLICE

Special to THE NEW YORK AGE.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Dec. 8.—During the past few weeks fifteen men have been killed by officers of the law, most of the cases being where arrests were attempted for trivial offenses. Not one of the men killed was charged with a capital crime. Because of this epidemic of legal (?) murder the Negro citizens called a mass meeting at Knights of Pythias Hall on Thursday, December 3 to file formal protest against these police outrages and to secure a peaceful adjustment of conditions.

The interests of all classes of citizens are being effected, the business progress is being impeded and the relations between the races is becoming strained because of the seeming disregard for human life on the part of the officials sworn to maintain law and order. The meeting was largely attended, the audience overflowing the hall, and it is hoped that the temperate utterances of the speakers will go far toward bringing about a better condition of affairs in the city.

Constitution 6-22-14

Negro Shot by Farmer.

Warrenton, Ga., June 28.—(Special.) A negro, Claud Mathews, was shot here this afternoon by A. Baker, a prominent cotton buyer and farmer of this place. The negro had threatened, with an open knife in his hand, to find and cut a white boy with whom he had words earlier and made a motion as if to attack Baker, who struck him on the head with the butt of his pistol. At this juncture the negro and his mother attempted to take the pistol and in the struggle two shots were fired, one striking Mathews on the side of the head. The large crowd in town was much excited, and only the prompt action of Marshal Bradshaw and Sheriff Brinkley in getting the negro to jail probably saved him from the action of the people.

JUDGE SCORES CONVICT CAMPS

Horrible Conditions Revealed in Startling Investigation of Chain Gang

GUARDS DRINK AND GAMBLE

Judge Frank Carter Says Pasquotank Convict Camp is Disgrace to County

The Georgia Baptist 10-29-14

Elizabeth City, N. C. Sept. 26—Judge Frank Carter finished his investigations of the management of the Pasquotank county chain gang this afternoon, and announced the findings of his inquiry to an audience that packed the court room. He spoke from the bench and stated that his investigation had revealed to him that the chain gang had been grossly mismanaged; that the guards had drunk enormous amounts of whiskey while on duty and had practiced the most revolting cruelties upon the prisoners, while the superintendent, Frank Weeks, had shown his inefficiency by permitting such a state of affairs to go on.

A Disgrace to Civilization

He characterized the Pasquotank county chain gang as a disgrace to the civilization of the county, and not fit for the most desperate Negro criminal. He stated that while holding courts in the district he would use every effort possible to keep from sending convicts to the chain gang until there had been a complete reorganization of its management, with all the present officers eliminated.

Guards Drank Whiskey

While conducting the examination of witnesses the record of the Southern Express Company, exhibited in court, showed that one of the guards named Cartwright, had received from the express office here during the past seventeen month, 251 quarts of liquor, and that he had violated the prohibition law fifteen times during these seventeen months by receiving more than a gallon at a time. He recommended these violations of the law to the attention of the Recorder's Court for further action.

May End the System

Just what the result of this investigation may bring forth no one knows. It may mean bills of indictment for the guards, for their Chief Frank Weeks and for the members of the Board of County Commissioners who have permitted these conditions to exist. It will in all probability result in ending the chain gang in Pasquotank County. It seems almost certain that Judge Carter will not sentence any more criminals from any county to work on this gang. Other judges will no doubt be influenced by Judge Carter's action.

Abolish Convict Camp

This would mean that the convict camp would automatically go out of existence for want of convicts. The guards taking fright have resigned. The guards are Bill Harris, Jim Cartwright and Jim Scott. The boss of the gang is Frank Weeks. The man above Weeks is Eugene V. Scott, Road Master, member of the County Commissioners.

The Chairman of the Board of Commissioners is Geo. M. Scott. Mr. Scott has always opposed Weeks and his methods, but he admitted to Judge Carter Tuesday that he didn't know the actual conditions of the convicts.

"There are many things in this county you don't know Mr. Scott; there are many things that you ought to know; I am convinced that you have been very remiss in your duties." Mr. Scott winced under the reprimand.

Judge Carter Determined

There is no mistake Judge Carter's determination to go to the bottom of things and punish somebody for the horrible state of affairs that has existed for years in this county without a protest from county officials, from the churches, or from any one in fact except THE INDEPENDENT alone. The Pasquotank county chain gang has long been a damning shame to this community. We build churches in China and go abroad seeking heathen who need spiritual pap. And here at our very doors human being rot in chains, are flogged till they bleed and carry marks for life; and Christians comfortably disposed among the pews of their churches sing of the "Sweet bye-and-bye" while the brutal keepers of the helpless convicts play cards and drink cheap liquor.

Worse Than Slavery

It is no economic motive prompting Judge Carter in this investigation. The little Judge doesn't care a rap whether the convicts earn their keep building roads, or not. It isn't the economic, it's the numane asset that interests him. He says: "The fact that a man is a Negro and a criminal does not remove his human status. People need not think that because a man is black and in prison that he has no rights which white men are bound to respect. We are not going to have the horrors of the institution of slavery perpetuated here in North Carolina. The time will come in this state when the North Carolina chain gang system will be as severely reprobated as slavery was.'

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"An investigation of this sort is very difficult," said the judge. "A convict camp is a close corporation. The convict is at the mercy of his keepers. A convict could not be expected to tell the whole truth about a cruel keeper in open court, because he would fear punishment at the hands of that keeper when he returned to camp.

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STRONG PROTEST AGAINST BRUTAL POLICE METHODS

Afro-American Residents of Jacksonville, Florida, Petition Grand Jury, Mayor and Other Conservators of the Peace to Stop Promiscuous Shooting.

The Chicago Defender 12/12/14

ASK THAT MEN BE TRIED.

Present List of Six Men Killed by Bullets Fired by Policemen Since October—List of Signers Headed by John H. Ballou.

By George Perch.

Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 11.—Alarmed by the large number of Afro-Americans shot down and killed recently by the police, under circumstances that were not justifiable, a number of citizens have petitioned the grand jury and mayor for better conditions and for the immediate trial of the cases pending. The petition presented last week reads as follows:

Hon. W. H. Hollowes, State's Attorney of Duval County, Florida, the Hon. Van H. Swearingen, Mayor, Hon. Grand Jury of Said County, Hon. W. H. Dowling, Sheriff of Said County, Hon. Board of Bond Trustees of the City of Jacksonville, and all Conservators of Peace. Gentlemen;

WHEREAS, there has been during the past few months a number of Afro-American men shot down and killed in the City of Jacksonville, by those who are presumed to be conservators of peace, under circumstances which seem to us not justified by the law, and wholly unwarranted by the circumstances.

AND WHEREAS, in connection with the killing of Afro-American men recently referred to, there are many evidences that there has been a total disregard of lives of Afro-American men on part of the officers of the law, who have shot down and killed about twelve within a short period of time.

AND WHEREAS, there seems to be no relief from these occurrences under present conditions, on account of the wanton disregard of law, and the constitutional guarantees of Afro-American men; especially those that relate to the preservation of their lives.

AND WHEREAS, recent happenings on which the lives of Afro-American men have been taken by officers of the law and others in this city, cause us to stand before the world as a city which is not averse to them, and has no pronounced sentiment against them.

In consequence of this condition of affairs the interests of the Afro-American citizens of this city, who constitute more than one-half of its population are being seriously affected as well as the interest of all classes.

THEREFORE, The undersigned Afro-American citizens of the City of Jacksonville, Florida, respectfully petition the State's Attorney of the Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida, and the Grand Jury of said County to take up the following cases:

SIX RECENT CASES.

Sam Tuckett, who was shot by F. J. mith November 23rd at 1736 Madison Street in the City of Jacksonville, and died some days after.

Will Smith, who was shot by officer of law at Bayard on October 10th, and died soon after.

One-armed man shot during the month of October, 1914, by Policeman Lord of the City of Jacksonville Police Force at the corner of Madison and Beaver Streets.

Another Afro-American man shot during the month of October by Policeman Overstreet at the corner of Beaver and Davis Streets, and who died as the result of a gun wound inflicted by the policeman.

An Afro-American man shot by a policeman some time during the month of November, 1914, on Broad Street, between Adams and Duval, and died a few days thereafter in the County Hospital.

An Afro-American man shot and killed in the vicinity of Church and Jefferson Streets during the latter part of the summer charged with having stolen a small quantity of candy.

To all others to whom this petition is addressed, we respectfully ask and petition for their influence in any way that it is in their power to exercise it, and for their good offices in changing the conditions complained of. And as in duty bound will ever pray. John H. Ballou, chairman; Horace E. Lee, J. P. Patterson, M. M. Lewey, F. Crockett, Wm. Schenk, G. D. Limbric, C. C. Manigault, W. H. Thompson, S. Eugene Schell, A. H. Anderson, J. A. Langford, J. M. Baker, J. H. Adams, C. H. Anderson, Committee.

F. J. Smith, held for the death of Samuel Tuckett, at Madison and Nada Streets, on November 23, is a local furniture dealer whose place of business is said to be at 530 West State Street, and C. D. Carter, another white man, were indicted by the grand jury on a charge of murder in the first degree, and are held without bail in the county jail. It was not stated what evidence was submitted to cause the indictment. Smith was first arrested following the shooting by Policeman Pledger J. Burkhalter, charged with discharging firearms inside the city limits. He stated at the time that he had called on the man to make a collection of a furniture installment, and that the latter had attacked him, armed with a hatchet. Tuckett did not die until Dec. 1, and the case was held over until after the inquest, which was held before Judge E. E. Willard. The charge was in the meantime changed to one of assault to murder and Smith was released on a bond of $250.00. The indictment was kept secret until the arrest of the two men, which was made by Deputy Sheriff Ben Jones early that day. It was not stated what connection Carter had in the case. Smith's name has been mentioned in some other cases recently.

THE TOLL OF CRAPS, BEER AND A GUN!

Joseph Baugh, Innocent Bystander Pays off With His Life.

The last toll of a "keg" party and a man with a gun was paid on the 9th inst., when Joseph Baugh, a young man about 30 years of age died at a local hospital. Several weeks ago some forty or fifty men and boys assembled in prohibition Topeka where they pulled off a "keg social" and "crap carnival" and as usual, there was a "gun toter" present. Fate seemed to choose him as the one upon whom trouble was to fall. Hot words passed followed by shots, and Henry Spalding, the intended victim was almost instantly killed, and in the malle, young Baugh an innocent bystander was hit by the wild shooter, who happens to be a boy about 17 years of age. Two dead and a young boy—a lad locked in a prison cell is indeed a dear price for such pastime. However, the way of the transgressor is hard, and those who wander from the beaten path must pay the penalty in their own corn. The funeral of Mr. Baugh was held from the chapel of Stonestreet & Son, and the Rev. B. R. Ross, pastor of Brown's chapel, conducted a short funeral service. It was a touching appeal for right living, and a vivid picture of the Christian way. Mr. Baugh came here some four years ago from St. Louis, Mo., where he was born. He was a quiet, inoffensive young man, a hard, steady worker and always attended strictly to his own affairs. He was never known to get into trouble, and it seems hard that he should thus be taken out of the world. His remains were interred in Mount Auburn cemetery.

TO DISCUSS PROBE OF MURDER SERIES

Advertiser

Birmingham Court Officials Will Call on Governor to Point Inadvisability of Special Grand Jury

7/22/14

Judge E. C. Crow of the Birmingham Circuit Court, and Circuit Solicitor J. R. Tate, will be in Montgomery today and will confer with Governor O'Neal in reference to the suggestion he made looking to a special grand jury being called to investigate the killings in Jefferson County during the last two months.

A conference was held yesterday at Birmingham between Judge Crow, Solicitor Tate and Clerk William J. Waldrop, of the Circuit Court and while no statement was made as to what was decided on further than that Judge Crow and Solicitor Tate would visit Governor O'Neal in person and discuss the matter, it is understood that the officials did not think the plans feasible and will so tell the Governor.

In the meantime, coroner's juries are making investigation into the killings, a jury being organized yesterday and taking testimony on the assassination of Moses Houlihan on June 18th.

Governor O'Neal wrote Judge Crow and Solicitor Tate of the Circuit Court suggesting that a special grand jury be organized at once and the murders investigated.

NEGRO GETS FORTY YEARS FOR ROBBERY

Advertiser 6-20-14

Special to The Advertiser.

DECATUR, ALA., June 19—Leslie Strange, a negro, was found guilty of highway robbery and sentenced to forty years in the state penitentiary. He has confessed that he is guilty of the crime. Under Alabama law highway robbery is a capital crime, punishable with a term of years or death.

Some months ago three white men who are employed at the Louisville and Nashville Railroad shops in New Decatur, were held up and robbed one evening shortly after being paid off. The highwaymen were two negroes and they secured over $300 in cash.

Crime – 1914.

Literary Digest 6/20/14

THE SLAVES OF TURPENTINE

IN THE turpentine convict camps of Florida are human beings whose "degraded, debased, sordid" existence is "worse than any exile, worse than any slum district," worse, even, "than Whitechapel, London." So writes Marc N. Goodnow in *The Continent* (Presbyterian, Chicago, June 4), after a ten-days' visit to one of these camps employing negro convicts—prisoners of the State. "No penitentiary in this country has ever equaled the sordidness of this or the other thirty camps in that State; no condition of servitude or savagery that I ever heard or read about has ever surpassed the state of inhumanity and hopelessness behind the whitewashed stockade of this camp." The needs of the ignorant mountaineers of the South, declares Mr. Goodnow, "are as nothing compared to the oppression of these slaves; yet the former are aided in missions," and the latter receive no religious help and are "apparently unknown" to generous Christian givers. In the camp this writer particularly describes there are thirty-five negro men, "in all stages of human dilapidation." The State still reserves its "right to trade and barter" in their black bodies, "leasing them to an association for the sum of $281.60 a head per annum, and allowing that association in turn to lease them to individual camp contractors for the sum of $400 a head per annum." The average profit on this transaction of $100 a head for 1,500 convicts is "easy money." The convicts' first sight of the "clump of low, white buildings, squatting under a blazing sun in a desert of sand and marsh, turns them sick." And for many days they have to be closely guarded for fear of attempts to escape. In their embitterment and weariness, the one saving grace is their "irresponsible temperament," which combines with a "mad desire to forget" to cause occasional evening and Sunday hours of merriment. But to let Mr. Goodnow describe a typical day in the camp:

"The day's work begins out in the turpentine forest by the time the sun strikes the hooded tops of the slender, swaying pines, which means that the convicts are astir in the fetid bunk- and mess-rooms of the stockade building some time before. A hurried 'bait' of salt meat and biscuit or corn pone breaks their fasted swamps and marshes up to their waists; it holds them through rain or shine, hot or cold. There is no protection for their bodies; the convict stripes are of tattered flannel and are worn without underwear. The dew is not yet off the thick grass palmetto stubble when they go to work and it is cold and dank.

"But the day's stint has already been set and the squad works rapidly and furiously, the men running back and forth, back and forth, between the trees and the barrels which hold the resinous gum and pitch.

"It is dusk when these tired, silent, ghostlike wretches file back into the stockade—perhaps wet to the skin and muddy, with feet and legs torn and bleeding from contact with the sharp blades of the palmetto. The stockade is a welcome sight after a day in the woods, for it means rest and sleep or perhaps an evening diversion. Even supper of cold baked beans, fat meat, and corn bread will stir life afresh within these creatures. The plank, plink, plank of the banjo is enough. It starts a shuffle of feet, and the fancy evolutions of the buck and wing begin."

Courtesy of "The Continent," Chicago.

THE BRIGHTEST SIDE OF THE PICTURE.

The turpentine camps of the South are said to present a more degraded human life than the worst slum of any city.

Sometimes on a Sunday, if prosperous-looking visitors make it seem worth while, a half dozen of the more talented convicts will at on a "show" or a race.

"And while this show is in progress, several guards and dogs, and at least one of the convicts, are absent. The guards are following the baying hounds through the forest. The dogs are following the trail of a convict as he speeds through the stubble of the woods, dodging here and there to throw the hounds off the scent or—when the pursuit grows too hot—'shinning' to the top branches of a tree."

This is the "nigger chase," a weekly rehearsal to keep the dogs in training for the capture of some wretch who makes a break for liberty. Once,

"nine convicts escaped from the bunk-room one dark night while the guard slept. To lose $3,600 in one night is rather expensive, even for a camp where the profit from turpentine and resin the year before is said to have been $25,000. And then, on top of this, of the six dogs that gave chase through the woods in a futile effort to capture the fugitives, three died. This was even a greater loss than the convicts or the money, for a hound-dog with a good nose for scenting convicts is an object emporiums. Style, shape, decency, all are meaningless words in application to these dresses. Clothes, so far as woman is concerned, are calculated to constrict her limbs, impede her motion, conceal the beauties of her body, emphasize its defects and violate every right canon of decoration and proportion. They cut her figure at the wrong place, stuff her out where she has least need of bulging, skimp her where she is scantiest, and generally make a satanic endeavor to turn her into an expensive scarecrow. The fashion-plates of to-day! Faugh!"

of no little pride and care in a turpentine camp."

Such is Sunday—no hard work, some recreation, "but absolutely no attempt to make it a day for spiritual or mental improvement." The State report, according to Mr. Goodnow, speaks of chaplains provided "to preach once a month." But his writer doubts if services are actually held "even once a month" —

"The truth is that almost no attention is paid to the spiritual needs of the convicts. People in that section don't think the convict—the negro convict—has anything that might come under that classification. What is the use of appealing to something in a creature when there is not enough human in him to respond to it? . . . . .

"When one realizes that the negro, wherever you find him, is racially the very embodiment of religious emotion and fervor, is it not a pity that neither the State nor the Church has taken full advantage of this opportunity? . . . These men can not successfully be appealed to by social workers; they can not successfully be appealed to by any other people or profession or upon any other than a purely religious ground."

There is no hope from within the camps, we are told. Magazines, books, and newspapers which Mr. Goodnow brought for the prisoners were kept by the guards. "There is supposed to be a library of some sort at each camp, but there is nothing of the sort." It is said that nothing can be done for these convicts. "Florida has allowed this slavery system to grow and thrive for thirty-two years without turning a hand to better conditions." But, declares Mr. Goodnow finally—

"The fact that this inhuman system has been allowed to flourish not only in Florida but in Alabama and other States for so long is all the more reason why the church—some church, at least—should attempt some systematic mission work. When society exiled these creatures to malarial swamps, fever-breeding bayous, insanitary sleeping and eating quarters, inhuman practises, and the hardest kind of physical labor, it forgot that these men would one day reenter society. The question is: 'What kind of men will they be?'

"There may be no complete regeneration ahead of these men, at least not while they are so utterly neglected by civilizing influences, but how immeasurably their mental, moral, and spiritual outlook could be improved by the kindly, human, spiritual outlook could be improved by the kindly, human, sympathetic influence of the church! Where is the church that will accept this mission?"

FIFTEEN "VAGRANTS" FOUND TO HAVE JOBS

Only Two Out of Seventeen Are Held Following Examination Before Recrdef Elmore.

Advertiser 6-21-14

Seventeen negroes, assorted as to age, size and color, were arraigned before Recorder Elmore Saturday afternoon on the charge of vagrancy.

Fifteen bosses, deprived for a day of their laborers, appeared either in person or by letter each to testify that one of the faces was familiar about his establishment and that one of the alleged vagrants was due a Saturday night pay check.

Two alleged vagrants, unable to establish proof that they were not soldiers in the army of the unemployed, were returned to the prisoners' room and will have until Monday afternoon to secure evidence that they have jobs.

Fifteen of the assortment, no longer alleged vagrants, recovered their knives, tobacco, etc., from the desk sergeant and went their way to their various jobs and pay checks.

The seventeen negroes became alleged vagrants Friday afternoon when they were rounded up in a pool room by Officers Watson and Lynch.

The Richmond Planet
5-23-'14

OFFICER KRENGLE'S BLUNDER.

As, we expected, Police Detective Sergeant Fred L. Krengle, charged with the murder of Samuel Thomason, a colored man, was discharged in the Police Court last Saturday. He stands in the unenviable predicament of having killed a man because he threw rocks at him. It is a well-known provision of the law that before a person, whether officer or civilian can be justified in taking human life, he must show that his own life was in danger.

Krengle has never been able to do this and so, even with the virtual, "Go in peace and kill some more," the right-thinking white and colored people, who have taken the pains to read the facts in the case and who have considered the officer's own admissions will regard this as being another Scotch verdict.

So far as Samuel Thomason is concerned, it was a most distressing happening.

> "O, it was pitiful,
> With a whole city full;
> Friends he had none."

Stiff and stark, his face in mute appeal upturned upon the cooling board at A. Hayes' Undertaking establishment, he was viewed by a curious throng. He came from South Carolina, it was said, where no doubt a mother and relatives await his return some day, and sing with a hopeful melody, "Where is my wandering boy, to-night?" How many wayward boys are strolling over the country today, seeking employment and not hearing from home?

But Officer Krengle was not thinking about this. He regarded his mandate as one to be punished by death, provided it was not obeyed. He fired, not once, but three times and so made his work of destruction complete.

For the life of us, we cannot understand how the Board of Police Commissioners and other liberal minded white men in authority can consent to arm men of this kind and calibre and permit them to roam the streets of this city. They are as dangerous as a dog with rabies. What is Officer Krengle's record? What captures has he made that he should be vested with such transcendent authority and be permitted to so wantonly take human life?

It was an unknown colored man last week; it may be a known white man this week. Our present police force has been particularly free from happenings of this kind and it is seldom that one hears now of even a brutal clubbing. Let P lice Sergeant Krengle run down the crooks, who are committing robberies all over this city, ferret out crime and not go about killing citizens admittedly innocent. Efficiency in the service and not brutality in the discharge of duties is what is wanted.

We do not believe in ghosts and we do not bow to the teachings of the superstitious, but it does seem to us that some time and some-how, Police Sergeant Krengle will have cause to regret his vicious and cowardly act in River-view Cemetery. The mandate, "Thou shalt not kill!" is as mandatory now as it was thousands of years ago, when it was handed down from Mt. Sinai. This is the second or third notch of killings in Officer Krengle's gun, how many more will he be permitted to make before he is stripped of his club, uniform and gun by the Police officials? Well says Byron,

> "Oh God! it is a fearful thing
> To see the human soul take wing
> In any shape, in any mood."

TO TAKE JOHN CLEMENTS TO SCENE OF CRIME.

Henrico Officials Differ as to Guilt of Accused.

(Richmond News-Leader, May 26.)

John Clements, the colored man identified by Miss Fannie Chenault as the man who attacked her on the night of May 8, will probably be taken by the Henrico police to the scene of the alleged crime some time this afternoon, it being the belief of those policemen who are positive the prisoner is the man wanted that a visit to the scene may possibly result in a confession. Anyway, they want to see what pschylogical effect a visit to the scene will have upon the colored man, who stoutly maintains his innocence. Policemen Tiller, Hardy and Seay will probably accompany Clements to the scene.

The belief entertained by several county authorities, who have been diligently at work on the case ever since Miss Chenault told the police she had been assaulted, that Clements is innocent was strengthened this morning, when Motorman Johnson, of a Seven Pines car, failed to identify the accused man as the man who boarded his car shortly after Miss Chenault says she was attacked. Clements was brought out along with half a dozen colored prisoners and Johnson failed to identify any of them.

Johnson's failure to identify Clements was followed by the colored man's identification by H. G. Eich, who lives close to Stop 23, Seven Pines line, as the man he saw standing waiting for the car from which Miss Chenault alighted. He said the man did not board the car as he, apparently, had intended doing, and suddenly disappeared. About two hours later Eich said he saw the man come from the bushes and board a car for Richmond. He was positive that Clements was the man.

It developed this morning that Clements has been three times arrested as a suspect in the Chenault case. Policeman Vincent today identified Clements as the man he arrested the day after the crime is alleged to have been committed. Clements was taken into custody about four and a half miles from where Miss Chenault says the crime was committed, and was liberated by Vincent after he had satisfied that officer that he was not the man wanted.

Clements at first denied he had been arrested by Vincent, but later admitted it when he found Vincent was to look him over.

It was stated at the county courthouse today that Clements is charged with a capital crime and that statements made by Miss Chenault substantiated the grave charges alleged. When county authorities were asked if the statement made by the physician who attended Miss Chenault would mean a changing of the charge to attempted crime, they replied that they were proceeding with the case on the statements made by Miss Chenault, and accordingly would place Clements on trial Thursday for assault.

It is no secret that there is a difference of opinion among county and city police as to the guilt of Clements, and it is likely that evidence highly favorable to the defense will be introduced when the colored man is brought to trial. Clements had not obtained the services of an attorney this morning and, acting under orders from Frank T. Sutton, commonwealth's attorney, jail officials declined to allow newspaper reporters to interview the man, who is confined in one of the cells in murderer's row.

From the police investigating the case it was learned that Clements has told numerous conflicting stories as to his whereabouts the night of the alleged crime and the day following.

Corrupt News And Editorial Opinions

The Journal
5-23-'14

"Most of the newspapers of the country and their news gathering agencies are controled by groups of capitalists, directly or indirectly, who are interested in shaping public opinion for selfish purposes and advantages. When they are confronted with this statement of the condition of affairs they grow red in the face and angry in the face and angry in the penetralia of their thinking machines, and talk long and loud in the language of outraged virtue. The Associated Press is one of the greatest offenders in this matter, and one of the most persistent discariers, although the reports sent out from one section of the country are invariable doctored against the colored and in favor of the white persons concerned in any matter whatever. The truth is seldom related and that which would injure the name and reputation of white persons is generally held back. This is criminal, often murderous business, the slow assassination of the character and standing of a whole race of 10,000,000 people, which it seems impossible to reach and throttle."

The above from the esteemed New York Age throws a great deal of light upon the practice of daily newspapers of making a feature of all news that reflects the criminal side of the Negro and suppressing such news as reflects the opposite side of Negro life. The newspaper reports of the Norfolk police investigation, just closed, strongly emphasized the point raised by The Age. Many columns were devoted every day to disclosures of gambling and other immoral practices among Negroes of the city, to the exclusion of anything that may have developed in the Negroes' favor. The point is, that there are many agencies at work, one of the strongest of which is the Associated Press, which strives, for commercial purposes, to show that the Negro is an inferior, hopelessly criminal and worthless element of the population. It may also be said that the Police Departments of many cities contribute to this movement largely by concentrating their efforts upon the operations of the criminal element of the Negro population, while allowing a great deal of crime among the opposite race go unmolested. This was brought out by Justice Barron, in his argument before the Mayor's court in the police investigation, then he said:

> "I want to say that my patience is worn out with the police bringing before my court the poor, the broken down and the blind, Negro men and women who may have sold a pint of whiskey and asking me to convict them of violating the liquor laws when I know that the big ones, the women that wear diamonds and have bank accounts and sell not merely whiskey and beer, but sell wine are not molested.
> "They don't bring the big ones, the rich who are adorned with diamonds and have bank accounts."

One of the police captains upon the witness stand said that "where ever Negroes congregated there would be crap shooting."

In summing up the matter The Age well says, "the best defence the colored people can have against the wrong they now suffer is the development and maintenance of a strong newspaper and editorial opinion service of their own, and this they are doing."

Crime – 1914

For a Sane Christmas

Just before Christmas, Principal Washington wrote a letter appealing for A Sane Christmas among the Negro people of the South. His letter was as follows, and was published in about 25 or 30 of the most important Southern daily newspapers: The letter follows:

Booker T. Washington Urges a Christmas shorn of Murder and Crime

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., Dec. 20.—In many parts of the country where our race lives in large numbers, a cloud of gloom is spread over the Christmas holiday season because of the large number of people who are murdered or wounded. Many of our people seem to feel that Christmas is for the purpose of drinking whisky, carrying pistols, or shooting or murdering somebody. This kind of thing is not confined to the Negro race, but just now I am trying especially to advise my race.

A careful study and observation has convinced me that these shootings and murders are brought about by two causes. The first cause is drinking—many of our people who, during the other months of the year seldom touch whisky feel at liberty, in fact, the necessity of drinking and making fools of themselves during the Christmas holidays.

These murders are brought about in the second place by the senseless and useless habit of carrying pistols on one's body for the mistaken purpose of self defense or protection. I have not carried a pistol in all my life, and do not keep one in my house, for I found that the carrying of a pistol or other weapons gets one into trouble in nine cases where it keeps one out of trouble in one case.

It used to be that the Fourth of July was a noisy, senseless occasion, where hundreds of people were murdered through the shooting off of fire crackers and firearms; a reform has been brought about so that the Fourth of July is now a safe, sane season. Why cannot we as a race do our part in bringing about some kind of a reform with reference to the Christmas season? Why cannot we change the policy of whisky-drinking and pistol-carrying so that Christmas will not bring sorrow, but only joy and gladness?

Think of it—instead of Christmas being a day of thanksgiving, joy and gladness. It is too often turned into a day of misery and woe even for a lifetime. Christmas leaves behind it penniless widows with children to support. It leaves disappointed, heartbroken parents, whose children, heated with liquor, have committed some shameful or criminal act. Hundreds of young men who would otherwise lead decent upright lives have begun their careers as jailbirds on Christmas day, and almost equally as many a young woman, due to the license of the season, has started on a course of shame and disgrace.

My special purpose in writing this letter is to make a definite, strong and personal appeal to every minister, to every Sunday School teacher, to every public school teacher and every parent to use his influence to have the drinking of whisky and the carrying of pistols stamped during the Christmas season. If something could be said by the ministers and teachers, and other leaders in every church in the South on this subject on Sunday, December 21, I am sure it would accomplish great good. Perhaps we might designate the day as "Anti-Whisky and Anti-Pistol Day." I very much wish that all the ministers and teachers in the day and public school might set aside this special Sunday, or a special day where attention through the medium of sermons or lectures might be called to this important matter. Our young people need to be spoken to plainly about the senseless and useless habit of this drinking of whisky and carrying of pistols. I realize fully that the type who are most guilty of these acts do not attend church, Sunday or day school and know of the difficulties in this direction, but nevertheless, if each one who reads this communication will begin now in some way to do his part to bring about a reform, I am sure that the coming Christmas season will show an absence of whisky drinking and pistol carrying that will be most gratifying and encouraging.

Dr. Washington, speaking to his own race, makes an especial appeal to the preachers among his own people, and to them The Georgian adds an especial earnestness of advocacy that they adopt it.

There are not so many persons of home and family among the Negro race as among our own, but the Negroes have been stirred and are being stirred to a mighty effort to emulate the best things in the white race, and it will be a signal demonstration of the earnestness of that movement among the Negroes of Georgia if their pulpits would preach and their pews would advocate throughout the length and breadth of the Negro population the abolition of whisky and the abolition of pistols from the Christmas celebrations.

If the Negro preachers of Atlanta

ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION.

We desire to call the attention of the Commissioner having direction of the police department to the high handed and brutal discrimination shown in the treatment of pedestrians on H Street Northeast. There seems to be a new policy adopted since the advent of the Wilson administration, to harass the colored people as much as possible. To be sure much cannot be expected from the police force when it comes to reasonable treatment of colored people. For years the police have made no bones in unjustly arresting colored men of education and high social and financial standing for no other reason than that they are colored men an exhibition of which so disgusted decent people, while and colored, not many months ago. But in the neighborhood referred to the majority of the people are poor and hardworking. It seems that word went along the lines to clear H Street of colored pedestrians who for any reason stop for a time, however brief, and for whatever purpose. The consequence is that that neighborhood is being grossly and brutally overworked. Several cases of unjust severity have been reported for instance where colored people stop for the purpose of purchasing fish and other articles from hucksters who may be seen on H Street, on almost any night, they are snatched up and taken to the station house and required to deposit from one to two dollars for no offense more serious than stopping just long enough to make a necessary purchase. And this, too, when drunken white men are permitted to stand for longer or shorter time on the sidewalks, often in boisterous wrangles, disturbing the peace and disgusting decent people; and when such persons are dealt with at all, are simply advised to go home. No such leniency or warning is permitted the colored people. A police regulation inaugurated for the purpose of insuring safety from annoyance by loafers and vicious people is highly salutary if carried out with fairness and discretion. But when the regulation discriminates against the colored people, simply because of their color, and without any reference to their respectability or the quality of their acts, it ought to be inquired into by any just police officer. A white man who observed a case of glaring and flagrant injustice to an innocent colored man, said that if such treatment were shown the white man, the Superintendent of Police, the Commissioners, or even the President would be called upon to stop the treatment. We ask Commissioner Siddons to look into the matter and correct them, if as stated.

The Journal & Guide

The Norfolk daily newspapers placed much emphasis upon the revelations made as to Negro gambling in ths city during the recent investigation of the police department, but put on the "soft pedal" when Justice Barron attempted to show that illicit relations between the races were carried on with the knowledge of the police department. That which shows the shame of the white, is suppressed with studied determination, while that which shows the shame of the black is exposed with earnestness and enthusiasm.

TRIAL OF WHITE MAN FOR MURDER; JURY DISAGREES

Special to THE NEW YORK AGE.

Austin, Texas, Jan. 27.—The trial of George Boothe, white, for killing Officer J. H. S. Gaines, colored, last November, lasted one week and the jury, after being out over two days, was discharged by the district judge. It is reported that they stood nine and three for acquittal.

The evidence was conclusive of cold-blooded murder, but racial prejudice and sympathy were so strong that a verdict was not reached.

The mayor and best citizens of all classes recognize that a "frame up" or plot was executed to kill officer Gaines. He was zealous in ridding the streets and dives of his district of the lewd woman, injuring the business of the dive-keepers.

and Georgia would take this in hand and the coming Christmas could be celebrated without a tragedy among the Negro race throughout the State, the fame of it would go abroad over all the land and the Negro would be elevated and advanced in the repute and esteem of the American people.—The Atlanta (Ga.) Georgian, December 17, 1913.

Christmas in the South

Elsewhere on this page appears a communication from Dr. Booker T. Washington, in which he takes up a matter of very considerable importance to the people of the South and discusses it in the sensible fashion which has made him a leader of his race.

There is no doubt of the truth of what he says about the manner of the observance of the Christmas holiday season in this part of the country. It ought to be the happiest and most cheerful time of all the year, and yet who is there who does not approach it with a sense of impending tragedy? Not even in the midst of its most hilarious joy is the feeling wholly absent, nor can it be while every year we are confronted with so many reminders of the evils to which Dr. Washington calls attention. Dr. Washington addresses himself especially to the consideration to the abuse of the Christmas season by the members of his own race, and he makes a strong and practical appeal to the leaders and advisers of that race everywhere in the South to join with him in trying to reduce the whisky drinking and pistol toting habits which lie back of and are responsible for the overwhelming majority of the tragedies which, as he says, spread a cloud of gloom over so many communities.

We are glad to give space to Dr. Washington's exhortation, but we cannot believe that it will prove of any great value until the white people of the South set the colored people the right sort of example in these matters. The Negro people are an imitative race, and we can expect nothing else than that so long as a

considerable element of the white people look upon the Christmas season as a time when they are licensed to indulge in excesses which at other times they would admit to be inexcusable the Negroes will take the same view of the matter. Christmas is a time when all of us if we are truly animated by its spirit should be especially considerate of others. As a matter of fact, there are thousands who are imbued with the belief that because it is Christmas they should be free to give their selfish appetites and passions free reign; and because this is true there are tens of thousands who suffer and grieve.

Nowhere is Christmas more generally observed than in the South. It is our most important holiday, the one holiday, in fact, which everybody in this part of the country keeps. Is it not thoughtlessness which in many cases is responsible for its abuse?—Editorial: Charleston (S. C.) News and Courier.

MORE ARRESTS MADE IN 1914 THAN 1913

First Case for the Year 1915 Was Case of Plain Drunk.

Constitution 12-1-15

When the old year was whistled out by hundreds of shieking sirens, horns, and other noise-making machines, Station Sergeant Holcombe, at police barracks, totalled the number of arrests for the year 1914 as 16,219, exactly 379 more arrests by the city policemen than in 1913.

The last three hours of 1914 in Atlanta were quietly spent—not a case was docketed against any citizen during this time.

However, as the first whistle began to shriek, announcing the dawn of 1915, the call officers' telephone bell began to ring, and a voice over the phone informed the policemen that someone had "begun the New Year right."

The man explained that he was at an apartment house on Peachtree street and that he would like for the police to come there immediately, as "the one" who had "begun the New Year right" was lying dead drunk on the front steps of the apartment.

A few minutes later, upon the return of the patrol wagon, the spotless record of the last three hours of 1914 was destroyed, as the station sergeant took his quill from behind his ear, and docketed the first case of 1915.

Twenty-five or thirty tramps during this winter have applied nightly at police barracks for a bed to sleep in. It was noticeable that not a single tramp presented himself to the station sergeant for a night's lodging. But within twenty minutes after the shrieking of the whistles at midnight had ceased twenty of the nightly army of bedless men had asked for a bunk. They had sat up to help ring in the New Year.

A tragedy occured last week before at Curtis Bay, a suburb of Baltimore, and as usual the only arrest made was that of a colored man, who was arrested as a witness and locked up, altho afterward released. The question arises why was the colored man arrested and the man who was supposed to have the most to do with the affair allowed to remain free? Is it any wonder that two-thirds of the inmates of our prisons are colored people when they can be arrested on the slightest provocation, whether guilty or otherwise? Had the man who was supposed to have had the most to do with this woman's disappearance been arrested as principal and then the colored man arrested as a witness in the case we would have had nothing to say. But this was not the case. Evidently in order to save their faces the Curtis Bay authorities had to arrest someone and consequently the arrest of the colored man.

The New York Age 4-23-14.

WAS NOT CONVICTED FOR KISSING WHITE WOMAN

Special to The New York Age.

Los Angeles, Cal., April 20.—A good many news items have appeared in the Eastern papers from time to time stating that a judge in this city lately sentenced a colored man to 30 years imprisonment because he kissed a white woman. Such a statement misrepresents the facts.

The judge who presided at the trial of this colored man was one of the fairest and best men on the bench. The jury that convicted him had on it one of the leading colored men of Los Angeles. The colored man was not convicted for merely kissing a white woman—that was a mere incident in the trial. He was convicted of being guilty of a series of inhuman and unnatural crimes against women, not only white but colored women, and everyone who knew the facts stated that the sentence was entirely justified.

It seems that in order to attract attention away from the real crime that the man committed the kissing part was given to the public.

FLORENCE PAROLES ALL CITY PRISONERS

Constitution

Commissioners Issue Statement Covering Municipal Finances for the Year Just Closing.

Advertiser 11-29-14

Special to The Advertiser.

FLORENCE, ALA., Nov. 28.—Mayor M. M. Striplin, Florence's first commissioner, has introduced a new system in the matter of paroling prisoners from the city stockade. Under the new system all prisoners will be paroled to work on the streets, and will be required to work out their fines and costs. Heretofore prisoners have been required to pay their fines and costs in cash, and if they could not do so they were sent to the stockade to work out the amount.

Mayor Striplin has also issued a statement showing the financial condition of the city. The statement shows that the city has a bonded indebtedness of $1,000,000, and that the assessed valuation of property is $12,000,000. The statement shows that the city has a floating debt of $27,451, and that the amount required for the coming year, when the amount required at the most conservative estimate will be $27,451.

Despite this unpromising outlook the new commission has introduced a new era in the matter of street improvement and sanitation.

UNLUCKY NUMBER GIVEN SENTENCES

Thirteen Prisoners Sentenced in City Court Yesterday—Young Forger Gets Term of Eight Years.

Thirteen prisoners were arraigned before Judge Armistead Brown in the criminal division of the City Court Saturday morning and given sentences for offenses for which they were convicted during the week just passed.

R. E. Farrier, a white man charged with the larceny of a cow, was sentenced to two and one-half years in the penitentiary. His counsel gave notice of an appeal and his bond was fixed at $1000.

B. W. Richardson, a young white man from Indiana who had confessed to forging the name of W. J. Toole to checks in four instances, was given a total sentence of eight years in the four cases.

Parella Bennett, a negro girl, who was convicted of assault to murder for trying to poison a Montgomery family was sentenced to five years imprisonment. The girl was charged with putting poison in the rice of the family with whom she worked.

Willie Mae Hughley, confessed shoplifter, was sentenced to one year and one day in each of three cases of grand larceny against her.

Other sentences imposed were:

James Holtzclaw, carrying concealed pistol, 13 days hard labor; Timothy Jones, same offense, sentenced passed until August 20, Joe Crittenden, burglary and grand larceny, eighteen months and eight-five days hard labor; Joe Hooten, grand larceny, two years and forty-six days hard labor; Marion Wilson, grand larceny, eighteen months and forty-sx days hard labor; Richard Johnson, grand larceny, one and a half years and ninety-four days hard labor; James Lawes, grand larceny, four cases one year and one day in each case, Morgan Lefdinger, burglary, two cases, one year and sixty-three days and year and sixty-one days hard labor.

NEGRO MURDERER IS ARRESTED IN FLORIDA

Advertiser 2-25-14

Special to The Advertiser.

GREENVILLE, Feb. 24—Gene Carter the negro who shot and killed Mary Webb a Forest Home negress on last Sunday night was captured at Century, Fla., on Monday. During the chase that followed Sunday afternoon between the negro and Sheriff Daniel, the latter shot at the negro, the ball enternig his leg just below the knee. He went to a physician at Century to have the wound dressed, and it was this that led to his arrest. He was brought to Greenville Tuesday morning.

NEGROES TERRIFY WOMAN.

Advertiser 8-15-14

Special to The Advertiser.

TALLADEGA, ALA., Aug. 14.--Freeman Wynn and Anderson Harris, colored, of Sylacauga, were brought here and incarcerated in the county jail by Marshal M. P. Coker, of Sylacauga. It is said that the two negroes went to the home of Leonard Gwinn, who resides near Sylacauga, this week, when Wynn made his way into the house and found no one in the house except Mrs. Gwynn, who was churning ,and asked her for something to eat. Mrs. Gwynn told him she had nothing to eat and thereupon ordered him away.

Upon Mrs. Gwinn's refusal the negro Wynn opened a door, saying that he would have something to eat. When the negro moved toward her she ran out of the house and the negro followed. The cries of Mrs. Gwinn attracted neighbors who came to her rescue and the negroes fled. Later they were arrested and Mrs. Gwinn identified Gwinn as the party who demanded something to eat and chased her.

SAYS PISTOL TOTING IN COUNTY MUST STOP

Judge Brown Announces Intention of Putting An End To Dangerous Practice.

Pistol toting in Montgomery county must be stopped, declared Judge Brown in the City Court yesterday, when passing sentence upon an offender, and it would probably be stopped if all gun men were hauled before his court. John Smiley, who had been fined $300 for carrying a pistol, was given six months hard labor with an additional sentence of 180 days to pay the cost.

Judge Brown who usually imposes a hard labor sentence on all prisoners convicted of this offense is strong in his condemnation against this evil and Solicitor Selbels spares no efforts in prosecuting cases of the kind. Each grand jury hears special attention called to this offense and Judge Brown was emphatic yesterday in his statement that it had to be stopped.

WHITE MAN IN FLORIDA CONVICTED OF MURDER

Special to The New York Age.

The New York Age 11-27-13

PENSACOLA, Fla., Oct. 27.—For the first time in Florida's history a white man has been convicted of murdering a Negro. Three white men, Ben. McDaniel, B. M. Franklin and Math Davis, were convicted at Blountstown, Calhoun County, Fla., of killing Eunice Johnson, a Negro, whose body was found in a creek. Another Negro, a material witness, was killed at the same time, but the men were not tried on that charge. They will probably be given life imprisonment.

The white men are all young and [illegible] prominent in the community. No reason was advanced for the killing. Court was in session when the crime was committed and the arrest of the men was followed quickly by their indictment, trial and conviction. Ten days after the murder they were convicted.

Constitution 12-7-14

THE GEORGIA GUNMAN.

Judge W. E. Thomas is one of the sanest and most conservative judges in the south. His name is a synonym for clear vision and courage on the bench. Recently he charged the grand jury at the summer term of Tift superior court on the cost to society of the pistol-toter. The report is to the effect that his charge created a profound impression, and that there is likely to be a house-cleaning in south Georgia because of it.

Judge Thomas reminded the grand jury that in fifty-seven counties in Georgia there had been 809 indictments returned for unlawful firing of pistols. Of course this grand total included homicides and petty offenses. The main thing is that it indicates the appalling extent of lawbreaking, the fact being that each of these 809 pistol-toters might have well been a slayer under favorable conditions. And if 809 indictments were returned for this offense in a little over one-third of the counties, what will the roster be for the entire 149?

There is law on the statute books, as Judge Thomas says, to break up illegal carrying of weapons if grand juries, courts, citizens and police authorities will co-operate. Two or three of the judges in Georgia have inaugurated the plan of suspending the alternative of a fine and making all pistol toting subject to a sentence on the public works. In the judicial circuits where this method has been tried there has been a perceptible diminution in the practice.

The Constitution has many times insisted that the pistol-toter is simply a barbarian and should be treated as such. He does not even deserve the consideration that society grudgingly extends to the jungle inhabitant who goes off on a cold-blooded murdering expedition. The jungleman is at least entitled to the extenuation of ignorance and a rudimentary conscience. No such mitigation attaches to the man living in the midst of civilization, each day rubbing elbows with men of high standards and cognizant of the cowardice and deadliness of his offense.

Until public sentiment does back the demand of such judges as Judge Thomas we will continue to be plagued with a high murder rate, and the nation will itself continue to be placarded before the world as a "nation of murderers."

Crime – 1914

Paroled After Serving Twenty Years for Stealing 50 Cents

Advertiser 7-2-14

Fifty years for stealing 50 cents. That is the sentence that a Hale County jury imposed on Frank Williams, a negro, who in 1894 robbed another negro of a half a dollar. After serving more than twenty years of the fifty-year sentence, Williams has been paroled by Governor O'Neal, the Governor extending clemency to the negro yesterday afternoon.

It was not the amount stolen, but the method used in obtaining the 50 cents that brought about Frank Williams undoing. He was charged with highway robbery and although his misdeeds netted him only the paltry sum mentioned, he was sentenced to serve fifty years in the State penitentiary.

Williams has made a splendid record as a convict. He is now more than 60 years old, broken in health and suffering with several wounds received while serving the State.

He has served eighteen years as a trusty. Judge Edward de Graffenreid of the Supreme Court, and other prominent Hale County citizens, recommended that the negro be paroled. Williams has relatives with whom he will live after his release from prison.

STATE CONVICTS SET NEW RECORD

Banner Mine Men Earn $42.20 Per Man During Month of October

TONNAGE WAS 48,832

The Montgomery Advertiser 11/19/14

Members of the convict board and chairman, the convicts of the State in Banner Mines set a new record for Alabama during the month of October, it was announced by officials of the State Convict Department yesterday. This average is for the entire number of convicts held at these mines, though not all by any means are actually engaged in the work that made the record possible. Members of the Board of Inspectors expressed much gratification over the new record.

The total tonnage for the month was 48,832, the records of the department showed. There are 405 convicts of the State at this mine.

Members of the Convict Board yesterday concluded their regular monthly session. The matters considered were of a routine nature, it was announced, supplies being purchased and other matters of similar nature being given attention. Messrs. Douglass, president, Greer and Austin are the members of the Board and all were present at the sessions.

MISSISSIPPI GOVERNOR PARDONS FOUR CONVICTS

State Executive Shows Clemency to Quartet of Afro-American Prisoners, Two of Them Being Sentenced for Life.

(Special to The Chicago Defender.)

Jackson, Miss., Aug. 28.—For various reasons Gov. Brewer today pardoned four Afro-American convicts who are serving time at the Parchman convict farm. Petitions for executive clemency for the prisoners have been on file in the governor's office for some time. After carefully investigating each case Gov. Brewer decided they had been sufficiently punished, and he would let them go, on the condition that they observe all of the laws of the state in the future. A breach of the condition will put into effect the unserved portions of the sentences. The following were pardoned:

Ed Montgomery, sent up from Sunflower county in 1907 to serve a life term for murder.

Robert Cooper, serving a sentence of ten years for manslaughter. He was convicted in Holmes county in September, 1910.

Ada Johnson, convicted on a charge of murder in the first district of Jones county in December, 1912, and given a life term.

Allen Cloyd, convicted of murder in Washington county in June, 1900, and sent up for life.

NEGRO WOMEN COMPLAIN OF JAIL ACCOMMODATIONS

Dr. W. H. Oates Goes to Birmingham to Investigate Complaints Recently Made.

Advertiser 9-29-14

Dr. W. H. Oates, State Prison Inspector, left last night for Birmingham, where he will investigate complaints made by certain negro women prisoners concerning accommodations in the Jefferson County jail. It is said that a large number of negro women are confined in one room and that there is a lack of proper ventilation.

Dr. Oates said yesterday that he is determined to have the evils in the Jefferson County jail remedied as soon as possible. The members of the Jefferson County Board of Revenue are now working on plans for the construction of a new jail. At present, however, the conditions in some respects are intolerable, according to Dr. Oates, and he will insist that the negro women be given ample room and that plenty of ventilation be provided.

SEP 1 1914

TEXAS PENAL INSTITUTIONS.

About Sixty Per Cent of the Inmates Are Negroes.

There are about 109 prisoners per 100,000 population confined in Texas penal institutions, and the total number confined is 4232, according to a report which has just been issued from the census bureau. About 60 per cent of the prisoners are negroes, 40 per cent white. In the entire United States there are 111,609 prisoners confined in penal institutions and the ratio is 121 per 100,000 population.

JUDGE NEIL OUT SPOKEN

SAYS HE IS TIRED OF CHEAP GRAFTING OFFICERS

No Free Grafting Will Be Tolerated

Age-Herald 12/18/14.

No Fee Grabbing Tolerated—Plain Instructions Given Grand Jury.

"I am sick and tired of a pack of cheap, grafting officers holding up men and women in this county under the false and fradulent pretense of enforcing the law," stated Judge A. B. Neil in a special charge delivered Wednesday morning to the grand jury dealing with the alleged abuse of power by deputies attached to magistrates' courts.

Judge Neil declared in his charge that he intended to put a stop to the petty graft of certain magistrates, declaring that it was montrous under existing financial conditions for officers to arrest any person solely for the purpose of collecting money through the magistrates' courts.

TWO WHITE TRUSTIES MISSING AT WETUMPKA

Doc Bingham And Fisher Stewart Leave The State Penitentiary Sunday Night.

Advertiser 7/14/14

Notice of the escape of Doc Bingham and Fisher Stewart, two white trusties at the State Penitentiary at Wetumpka was received yesterday at the office of the State Convict Department. Both men worked at the power plant at Wetumpka and disappeared Sunday night. Bingham was sentenced to serve twenty-five years on a murder charge while Stewart was sentenced in Bullock county to a term of ten years on a charge of forgery.

Rewards of fifty dollars will be paid for the return of each prisoner.

SIX MONTHS SENTENCE AND $100 FINE IMPOSED

Negro Gets This Punishment for Theft of $9.45 from Fellow Worker.

Advertiser 7-4-14

A fine of $100 and a sentence of six months were imposed in the case of Will Green, a negro, who was arranigned in police court Friday afternoon on the charge of larceny.

Green is alleged to have taken $9.54 from Butler Chapple, a fellow workman. He denied the charge.

Chapple in giving his version of the theft stated that he was asleep in a pile of bricks when Green came up and removed his pocketbook. Chapple was awakened and a chase followed which wound up in the arrest of Green by Detective Cloud.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUTICE AND THE AFRO-AMERICAN

Judge Adelor J. Petit Brings Up Grave and Threatening Question in Recent Criticism on Illinois Parole Law — Case of Frank Ford and David Goldberg.

JUSTICE COLOR-BLIND.

Maladministration of Justice Penalty of Race Prejudice—Freedom Will Only Come When Administered to All Classes Alike—The Criminal Trust.

The Chicago Defender 12/7/14

By George W. Ellis.

Upon the administration of justice depends the perpetuity of any community. No government can long survive the wide diffusion and permanence of injustice. The dangers to which society in this community is subjected through the maladministration of justice to certain influential criminals, poor whites and Afro-Americans were lightly touched upon the other day in one of the local papers under the caption, "Grand Jury and Judge Assail Parole Law."

Judge Petit, the Grand Jury.

This article calls attention to an abnormal social situation which should claim the immediate attention of all good citizens. The occasion of this article was the conviction of Frank Ford and David Goldberg for taking human life and who, upon pleas of guilty, came up before Judge Adelor J. Petit for sentence. The report of the grand jury urging less leniency in granting paroles in the future and the remarks of the chief justice open up a political and social situation which should not be closed until some remedial steps have been taken for the public good. Among other things the chief justice says:

"The big crook finds it easy to get a parole; a first offender without influence or friends can't pry himself out."

A Menacing Situation.

Such is the political condition of our community that the officials entrusted with official power have so betrayed their trusts to the general public and the people that professional criminals cannot be confined in the penal institutions of the state where they belong. Many of them escape justice through the corrupt action of the detective and police forces of this city. A recent investigation showed that a criminal trust had been organized and that it pays certain officials for protection to rob and plunder the people without official hindrance or molestation. And in the event that circumstances should so shape themselves as to demand and secure their arrest and conviction and confinement in the penitentiary, because of their powerful connection with the crime trust, in and out of office, repeated paroles are secured for them through these potent influences working under the cover and through the functions of government. This is the terrible indictment of the democracy of this community and the Christianity and civilization of its people that they should tolerate such a situation after one of their judicial officers, the chief justice of the circuit court, has called attention to it. On the other hand, because of this corrupt alliance between criminals and officials of the law the poor and those who deserve paroles and the benefits of the clemency of the law are unable to get consideration and that justice which the whole community should see that this class of first and inexperienced offenders of the law should get.

Young White Offender.

Another situation developed some ugly features. One of the offenders,

Ford, is an Afro-American. He was sentenced for life, while Goldberg was sent to a reformatory. Goldberg is a young white lad of only 17 years. Without knowing any of the other facts of his case, it would seem that his case was properly disposed of in being sent to Pontiac for reform. It may be that that young lad can be reformed, and the fact that he is white should have nothing to do with the disposition of the case. Although this white boy took human life for the small sum of $3.85, showing on the face of things that he had fallen very low in the scale of humanity, yet his tender years of only 17 and his undoubted inexperience in criminal thought and life give hope that under the proper social and reformatory environment even this lad who had strayed so far away from normal standards may be redeemed, and the system of parole laws was enacted to afford just such cases the opportunity to place their unfortunate victims again on the path of social welfare and human progress. Judge Petit has called to the attention of the people of Chicago a menacing situation which has creeped silently upon the people and which, if not speedily remedied, will threaten the very foundations of civic virtue and social welfare. Men should not be tried for their color nor should they be punished for it. Each case should be tried and disposed of in accord with all the facts in the case and the law. Judge Petit is known for his fearless discharge of what he considers his official duty, his impartial administration of the law and his unquestioned uprightness and integrity of character. And because of this we think deeply of what he disclosed when he said:

"Some of the jurors said they would have voted to hang Ford had he not pleaded guilty. I would hang him, too, if he were white, but if I hang a Negro and let a white boy off the Negroes might misunderstand my action, and the Negro newspapers probably would distort the facts and cause race prejudice."

Judge Petit and the Ford Case.

We think Judge Petit acted the part of wisdom and, from all we know of the facts of Ford's case, did the right thing. We do not, however, agree as to what should have constituted the reasons for his course. The feeling that the jury would have hanged Ford may have been largely due to Ford's race, against which there is in this country a violent and potent prejudice, invading every department of American life and corrupting in many states and communities the very foundations of liberty and justice. There are few places where this prejudice is more noticeable than in the verdicts of juries and sometimes in the opinions and decisions of judges. Afro-American people are too often unable to protect themselves against the prejudice of the jury room because of their poverty and want of influential friends, and at times money and friends combined are unavailing to protect Afro-American people from the terrible and devastating effects of American race prejudice. The just and wise judge can offset this prejudice known to exist and to express itself in verdicts by granting new trials, imposing light sentences and granting paroles. In the light of this consideration we think Judge Petit acted wisely and justly and we heartily commend him. Ford was a convict on parole and was a full-grown man, and for these reasons was entitled to more punishment and a different kind to that of young Goldberg. But if Ford had been sentenced to hang many Afro-American people would have, and perhaps newspapers, too, misunderstood the reasons for the dissimilar disposition of the two persons. And in this very fact and social situation in America lies a tragedy almost as deep and dark as death. This is one of the penalties of race prejudice. When juries and courts establish a reputation of doing justice, regardless of race, freedom will not only come to the Afro-American people, but to white people as well. Then the judges will be free to do justice to all men. But the Afro-American race has suffered so much and so long at the hands of the white race that we are thankful to Judge Petit for the consideration shown Ford, whaetver may have been his reasons.

HE ADMITS SLAYING HIS UNCLE WITH AX

Harry Lee Confesses to Killing P. O. Bonnell, of Hawkinsville, as He Lay Asleep.

Constitution
4-9-14

Hawkinsville, Ga., April 8.—(Special.) Harry Lee, 18-year-old nephew of P. O. Bonnell, who was charged with the murder of his uncle, confessed to the killing this morning. A detective from the Burns agency arrived here yesterday from the Atlanta branch and with the local officers began work to ferret out the crime. After spending about three hours at the scene of the crime they were convinced that sufficient clews were obtained to point to the boy's guilt. The coroner's jury in the meantime had realesed the boy, but the solicitor general ordered him held for commitment trial.

The officers talked with Lee in the jail last night and again this morning, when he broke down crying and confessed.

"I killed my uncle because he continually abused me, and would not give me money to go home with," the youth said.

Bonnell, who was 22 years old and a baker, was killed while sleeping. Lee, who roomed with him, gave the alarm, saying his uncle had been killed by a negro and that he was awakened just as the negro was escaping from the room.

The youth told the authorities, according to their statement, that he arose early Sunday morning, dressed with the exception of putting on his shoes, obtained an ax from the back porch of the house in which they were living, and struck Bonnell on the head.

"He struggled some after I hit him," Lee is said to have told the police, "and then I struck him two more blows with the ax on the head."

The dead man and his nephew came here recently from Florida. Bonnell is survived by a family there.

The Negro And Crime

The Journal & Guide
4-18-14

That the criminal record of the Negro race is padded with crimes that Negroes do not commit, but that are committed by others and charged to the race is becoming more and more evident every day. It is not necessary to go into much detail in support of our position, but we will relate two cases.

(1.) Harry Lee, an eighteen-year-old white boy of Hawkinsville, Ga., killed his uncle with an axe, while the victim was asleep. Lee then gave the alarm, saying that his uncle had been killed by a Negro, who had made his escape. A represantative of a National Detective agency secured from the young white man a full confession of the crime. Had the community not had some doubts about the truth of Lee's story, he would be enjoying his freedom now while some unfortunate innocent Negro would pay the penalty for his crme.

(2.) The second case is especially interesting in view of the sweeping investigation of the Norfolk police department now going on. Clarence B. Smith, a substitute park policeman, went joy riding with a female escort, and during their escapade accidentally ran the automobile into the safety gates at a railroad crossing. The woman and the policeman were both injured. The policeman took her to the police station and reported that she had been attacked by two Negroes in the park, and that he was hurt while trying to arrest her assailants. The young woman later told the truth about the affair and the policeman was dismissed from the force. Had they both stuck to their first story another attack upon white women would have been added to the Negroes' criminal record.

Savannah
NEWS-

JUN 15 1914

ENCOURAGING NEGRO CRIMINALS

In Edgefield county, South Carolina, the voice of a negro preacher has been raised in protest against the practice of many white employers of paying their negro employes and other negroes out of trouble in the courts. The complaint is made that very often "bad" negroes are saved from chaingang service and turned loose on the community to commit other crimes, when they should be kept for a time under guard as punishment for their misdeeds. The Charleston News and Courier quotes from a letter the preacher, the Rev. Frank Weaver, wrote to the Edgefield Advertiser about a homicide that occurred at his church recently.

He wrote that it had been his experience that nearly all of the crimes committed at negro churches were the work of negroes who had been "bought out of crimes," and he predicted that "as long as these bad boys are paid out of bad crimes and sent back on our good people we cannot hope for much better times." The inference is that negroes who sell their labor to white employers in exchange for fines paid the courts for their freedom think they can commit crimes right and left and escape chaingang terms because their labor is in demand. Of course, they prefer to work out their fines in freedom than on the chaingang, but the preacher protests that they are free, while working out their fines, to commit other crimes and that they do not fail to commit them.

Conditions in South Carolina and in Georgia in this particular are no doubt pretty much the same. The question arises as to whether it is not better to give real punishment to negroes convicted of minor crimes than to add their numbers to the labor supply by paying their fines and so encouraging them in their criminal tendencies. It seems evident that if the bad negroes get the idea that they can break laws and cause disturbances with comparative immunity from punishment they will continue to cause trouble and other negroes will follow their example. The problem suggested by the preacher is not confined to the rural districts, but is of more importance there than in the cities.

Anything that tends to increase criminal tendencies among the negroes of the South cannot fail to work to the South's disadvantage. Crime statistics of the section are seldom divided into those that concern white persons and those that concern negroes. They are lumped together and the white people suffer in the world's estimation for the crimes negroes commit. The question the Edgefield county preacher causes to be asked is one that should be studied by everybody who is interested in decreasing the number of crimes committed in the South.

COLORED PROBATION OFFICE IN D. OF C. JUVENILE COURT

In the Home of General Grant.

(Washington Post, July 23, 1914)

New quarters for the juvenile court were yesterday selected at 203 I street northwest in the four-story and basement brick residence at one time occupied by Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and later used as a residence by Gen William Tecumseh Sherman. The move will bring the juvenile court within two blocks of Judiciary Square, where most of the other District courts are located. It has been long felt by Judge Kimmer that such a location would be desirable. Two additional probation officers have been appointed. One is Miss Mary Darwin.

First Colored Incumbent.

The other appointee is Bula Ross Grey, the first Colored probation officer of the local juvenile court. She has been employed for the last three years as assistant preceptress at Howard University. Her appointment took effect yesterday. The clerk for the probation office has not yet been named.